

## **Guide to the Rice family papers MS.R.045**

Finding aid prepared by Phil Brigandi, 2004.

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P.O. Box 19557

University of California, Irvine

Irvine 92623-9557

[spcoll@uci.edu](mailto:spcoll@uci.edu)

URL: <http://special.lib.uci.edu>

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**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

**Title:** Rice family papers

**Creator:** Rice family

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.R.045

**Physical Description:** 4.8 Linear Feet(9 boxes and 4 oversize folders)

**Date (inclusive):** 1812-1972

**Date (bulk):** 1875-1919

**Abstract:** This collection comprises materials from the James S. and Cora Rice family of Tustin, California, and other relatives, including Harvey M. Rice, father of James and an Ohio author and legislator; Nettie Rice, sister of James and the first wife of James Irvine I; and the family of J.H. Martin of Carson Valley, Nevada. It also includes material from the Polish-born Shakespearean actress Helena Modjeska who had a summer home in the Santa Ana Mountains of Orange County. The collection includes correspondence, documents, ephemera, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

**Language of Material:** English .

#### **Access**

Collection open for research.

#### **Publication Rights**

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#### **Preferred Citation**

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For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

#### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Harvey M. Rice, 1966

#### **Processing Information**

Processed by Phil Brigandi, 2001.

#### **Biography**

The Rice family was an important ranching family in Orange County and figured prominently in the growth and development of Tustin. The family is especially noteworthy for its connections to the James Irvine family and to the actress Helena Modjeska.

Harvey M. Rice (1800-1891) was born in Massachusetts and settled in Cleveland, Ohio in 1824, when the community was still a small, frontier town. He worked as a teacher, a newspaper editor, and later as an attorney. In his retirement, he wrote historical sketches and travel pieces, including *Life from the Pacific Slope, or First Impressions*, which documents an 1869 overland journey to California. He served as an Ohio legislator in the 1830s and as a State Senator in the 1850s. He was noted for having written Ohio's original "common school" law in 1851, a bill later copied by other states. Harvey was honored in later years for his pioneering work in public education, and a statue honoring him was erected in Cleveland in 1899.

Harvey and his wife Maria's daughter, Henrietta Maria (Nettie) Rice (1841-1874), was the first wife of James Irvine I (1827-1886), the founder of the famous Irvine Ranch in Orange County, California. She was the mother of James Irvine II (1867-1947), who was responsible for much of the development of the ranch in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Harvey and Maria Rice's son, James S. Rice (1846-1930), worked in the furniture business in Cleveland with one of his older brothers for 11 years before coming to Southern California in January 1877. His first California venture was raising stock on the Irvine Ranch in partnership with his brother-in-law, James Irvine I. After approximately one year he bought land near Tustin, where he planted oranges. Later he bought 50 acres on First Street, near Tustin, which he planted in grapes. During the Southern California real estate boom of the late 1880s he subdivided and sold much of his ranch, but for many years he retained a 12-acre parcel for oranges. At various times he was also engaged in growing walnuts, celery, and sugar beets in Orange County, and was involved in the early development of Laguna Beach. In 1872, while still in Ohio, James married Coralinn (Cora) Barlow (1850-1919). Cora was a noted singer and actress, and James was well regarded for his musical talents, whistling, and imitations. They often performed for benefits and social events in Orange County and became close friends of the country's most noted actress of the day, Polish-born Helena Modjeska, who also lived in Orange County. Cora's brother, Charles Barlow, settled in the Bakersfield area, where he went on to serve as the local Congressman.

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James and Cora Rice had four children: James W., Merrill, Harvey, and Percy F. James W. (ca. 1874-ca.1950) followed in his father's footsteps both as a rancher and as a musician. In approximately 1905 he acquired his own ranch on 17th Street in Tustin. In 1908 he married Reubel Martin (b. 1883), the daughter of Nevada pioneers, who had been educated at Mills College in Oakland. James W. and Reubel had two children, James W. Rice, Jr. and Harvey M. Rice (1913-1974). Reubel Rice's father, J. Henry Martin, had settled in the Carson Valley in Nevada in the 1860s. He was a farmer and a teamster, and he engaged in various business activities in Carson City and in the mining camps of western Nevada and eastern California, including Bodie, California. By the 1880s Martin was active in politics and served as State Senator, representing Douglas County in the late 1890s. He married Katie F. Child, whose family seems to have settled in Nevada in the 1850s.

Merrill (ca.1876-ca.1919) inherited some of his parents' musical talents but seems to have become estranged from his family. Harvey (1879-1900) was considered a promising young man, but he died at the age of 21 due to consumption.

Percy F. (1882-1950) became an inventor and patented several devices, including improvements for printing presses, radio tuners, and automotive transmissions. He lived in Orange County for most of his life.

- 1824 Harvey M. Rice settles in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 1851 Harvey M. Rice drafts Ohio's common school law.
- 1866 Nettie Rice marries James Irvine I.
- 1866 James S. Rice enters the furniture business in Cleveland in partnership with his older brother.
- 1870 Harvey M. Rice publishes *Letters from the Pacific Slope*, describing his first visit to California in 1869.
- 1872 James S. Rice marries Coralinn (Cora) Barlow.
- 1874 James S. Rice makes his first visit to California.
- 1877 James S. and Cora Rice move to Southern California; after living briefly on the Irvine Ranch, they settle in Tustin.
- 1887 James S. Rice subdivides his property and places it on the market as Rice's Addition to Tustin.
- 1888 J.H. Martin runs for the Nevada State Senate.
- 1896 Harvey Rice loses an arm in a shooting accident.
- 1896 J.H. Martin is elected to the Nevada State Senate to represent Douglas County.
- 1899 Reubel Martin enrolls at Mills College.
- 1899 A statue in honor of Harvey M. Rice is unveiled in Cleveland.
- 1903 Percy Rice invents an automated paper feeder for printing presses, his first important invention.
- 1920 James S. Martin serves as Chairman of the Orange County Democratic Central Committee.

#### **Collection Scope and Content Summary**

This collection comprises materials from the James S. and Cora Rice family of Tustin, California, and other relatives, including Harvey M. Rice, father of James and an Ohio author and legislator; Nettie Rice, sister of James and the first wife of James Irvine I; and the family of J.H. Martin of Carson Valley, Nevada. It also includes material from the Polish-born Shakespearean actress Helena Modjeska who had a summer home in the Santa Ana Mountains of Orange County. The collection includes correspondence, documents, ephemera, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

#### **Arrangement**

This collection is organized into four series.

- Series 1. Rice family material, 1812-1972. 2.4 linear ft.
- Series 2. Helena Modjeska material, 1879-1970. 0.2 linear ft.
- Series 3. Martin family material, 1822-1907. 0.5 linear ft.
- Series 4. Photographs, 1854-1961. 1.7 linear ft.

#### **Related Material**

Additional material on Helena Modjeska may be found in the Helena Modjeska Collection (MS-R37).

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**Rice family material Series 1. 1812-1972****Physical Description:** 2.4 Linear Feet**General Physical Description note:** no content**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series contains material from the Rice family, primarily James S. and Cora Rice and their children, and documents their activities in Orange County. Some of these items relate to the Irvine family. Materials consist primarily of clippings, ephemera, and documents along with a small amount of correspondence. Included among the James S. and Cora Rice ephemera are several posters announcing upcoming theatrical events in Orange County from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, along with an advertising brochure from the sale of the subdivision of the Rice Ranch in Tustin during the real estate boom of 1887. The folder of Tustin material includes a complete 1886 title report on a number of lots in downtown Tustin, a portion of which were owned by James. The Harvey Rice folder includes information on his activities in Ohio and the statue raised in his honor in 1899. The Percy Rice folder contains information on several of his inventions.

box 1, folder 1  
 box 1, folder 2-8,  
 box 2, box 8,  
 folder 7-10  
 box 2  
 box 2  
 box 2  
 box 8, folder 7-10

**Irvine family, clippings, correspondence, ephemera ca.1870-1953  
 Rice family****Artifacts****Two stereoscope viewers ca. 1890****Opera glasses recovered after the San Francisco fire by Stella Preble 1906****Books belonging to Rice family members 1863-1916.****Physical Description:** 12 items in 4 folders.**General Physical Description note:** no content**Scope and Contents note**

Includes cookbooks, primers, lesson and advice books.

box 1, folder 2

**Calling cards 1878-1881 and undated.****Scope and Contents note**

Some may be from Martin family materials in Series 3.

box 1, folder 3

**Ephemera, printed 1883-1923 and undated.****Scope and Contents note**

Includes a series of Niagara Falls postcards, business advertisements, and a brochure for Peralta Hall seminary for young ladies (Berkeley, Calif.).

box FB-028,  
 folder 9

**Brochure, "Last blazes on the Oregon Trail" 1907**

box FB-028,  
 folder 9

**Sheet music and advertisement, "Pacoima" 1923**

box FB-028,  
 folder 9

**Tourist motor map of California, undated**

box 1, folder 4

**Orange County clippings and ephemera 1910-1928 and undated**

box 1, folder 5

**Political ephemera 1880-1936 and undated**

box 1, folder 6

**Santa Ana clippings 1926 and undated**

box FB-031,  
 folder 5

**Scrapbook pages of clippings on Rice family members, undated**

box 1, folder 7

**Theatrical material 1886-1926 and undated**

box 1, folder 8

**Tustin clippings and documents 1886-1965 and undated.****Scope and Contents note**

Includes 1886 title abstract for property in Tustin.

box 1, folder 9	<b>Rice, Harvey. Documents, correspondence, clippings, and ephemera 1812-1899 and undated</b>
box 1, folder 10-12	<b>Rice, James S. and Cora</b>
box 1, folder 10	<b>Clippings 1912-1972 and undated</b>
box 1, folder 11	<b>Documents and correspondence 1878-1929 and undated</b>
box FB-028, folder 10	<b>House plans ca. 1887</b>
box 1, folder 12	<b>Ephemera 1868-1927 and undated</b>
box 9, folder 1-2	<b>Portrait paintings of the father and mother of Cora (Mrs. James S.) Rice, undated</b>
	<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders.
	<b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 1, folder 13	<b>Rice, James W.</b>
box 1, folder 13	<b>Correspondence 1888-1919 and undated</b>
box FB-031, folder 4	<b>Sheet music for <i>Bergeuse logusta for violin and piano</i> by James W. Rice 1906</b>
box 1, folder 14	<b>Rice, James W. and Reubel family. Documents and ephemera 1901-1943 and undated</b>
box 1, folder 15	<b>Rice, Percy. Documents, correspondence, and clippings 1925-1953</b>
box 1, folder 16	<b>Rice, Sarah P. Will 1924</b>
box 1, folder 17	<b>Rice, Walter Percival. Biographical brochure and ephemera 1929</b>
	<b>Helena Modjeska material Series 2. 1879-1970</b>
	<b>Physical Description:</b> 0.2 Linear Feet
	<b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
	<b>Series Scope and Content Summary</b>
	This series comprises material collected by the Rice family about their friend, Helena Modjeska. It includes a number of letters from Modjeska and several theatrical programs. It also includes information on her home, "Arden," in Modjeska Canyon in the Santa Ana Mountains, both during Modjeska's occupancy and following her death when the home was being operated as a commercial resort. It also contains a small amount of material from Modjeska's husband, Count Charles Bozenta, and her son, Ralph Modjeska.
box 3, folder 1-7	<b>Modjeska, Helena</b>
box 3, folder 1-4	<b>Correspondence</b>
box 3, folder 1-2	<b>To James S. and Cora Rice 1890-1908 and undated.</b>
	<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders.
	<b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 3, folder 3	<b>Miscellaneous outgoing, undated</b>
box 3, folder 4	<b>From Julia Marlowe to Helena Modjeska, undated</b>
box 3, folder 5	<b>Home, "Arden," brochures ca. 1910</b>
box 3, folder 6	<b>Poems about Modjeska by James S. Rice and anonymous author 1893-1899 and undated</b>
box 3, folder 7	<b>Programs and articles 1879-1970 and undated</b>
box 3, folder 8	<b>Bozenta, Count Charles, correspondence 1880-1892</b>
	<b>Martin family material Series 3. 1822-1907</b>
	<b>Physical Description:</b> 0.5 Linear Feet
	<b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
	<b>Series Scope and Content Summary</b>
	This series contains material from the family of J.H. and Katie (Child) Martin, parents of Reubel Rice, wife of James W. Rice. It consists primarily of J.H.'s business correspondence from the 1870s and 1880s documenting some of his activities in western Nevada and eastern California. It also contains a journal written by a Martin ancestor, Sarah Hinman, a teacher in Vermont in the mid-1860s, and a few documents from J.H.'s father, Reuben Martin. Additional material from Reubel following her marriage into the Rice family may be found in Series 1.

- box 3, folder 9  
box 3,  
folder 10-23  
box 3,  
folder 10-18  
box 3, folder 10  
box 3, folder 11  
box 3, folder 12  
box 3, folder 13  
box 3, folder 14  
box 3, folder 15  
box 3, folder 16  
box 3, folder 17  
box 3, folder 18  
box 3, folder 19  
box 3, folder 20  
box 3, folder 21  
box 3, folder 22  
box 3, folder 23  
box 4, folder 1-6  
box 4, folder 1  
box 4, folder 2-4  
box 4, folder 3  
box 4, folder 4  
box 4, folder 5  
box 4, folder 6  
box 4, folder 7  
box 4, folder 8
- Hinman, Sarah, journal 1864-1865**  
**Martin, J.H.**
- Correspondence, incoming**
- General 1875-1885 and undated**  
**Blanchard, Henry C. (Bodie, Calif.) 1880-1881**  
**Boone, Harvey (Bodie, Calif.) 1879**  
**Huntington, Hopkins & Co. (Sacramento, Calif.) 1881**  
**Ogg, Con (Bodie, Calif.) 1879-1880**  
**Reynolds, E. 1880 and undated**  
**Robson, William (Lundy, Calif.) 1883**  
**Smart, J.C. 1879**  
**Smith Bros. (Teals Marsh, Nev.) 1881**
- Correspondence, miscellaneous incoming 1863-1882**  
**Correspondence, outgoing 1866**  
**Deeds 1873-1907**  
**Documents and ephemera 1877-1918 and undated**  
**Invoices and receipts 1876-1890 and undated**
- Martin, Katie F. (Child)**  
**Child family genealogical notes, undated**  
**Correspondence, incoming**
- General 1865-1877 and undated**  
**Haskins, W.L.G. (Tustin, Calif.) 1901-1906**  
**Woman's suffrage 1898**
- Documents, ephemera, and clippings 1905-1916 and undated**  
**Scrapbook 1868-1905**
- Martin Rice, Reubel, school papers and report cards 1892-1901 and undated**  
**Martin, Reuben, documents 1822-1866**
- Photographs Series 4. 1854-1961**  
**Physical Description:** 1.7 Linear Feet  
**General Physical Description note:** no content  
**Series Scope and Content Summary**  
This series comprises photographs from all of the various branches of the Rice family. Numerous portraits and snapshots depict family members, including two portraits of Nettie Rice Irvine, the wife of James Irvine I. Photographs in this series depict the Rice family home and ranch; communities in Orange County such as Tustin and Newport Beach; and portraits and photographs of Helena Modjeska and her home in the Santa Ana Mountains.
- box 4, folder 9
- Irvine, Nettie Rice (Mrs. James) 1867 and undated.**  
**Physical Description:** 2 prints.  
**General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 4,  
folder 10-11,  
box 5  
box 4, folder 10
- Martin family**
- In Nevada 1874 and undated.**  
**Physical Description:** 8 prints.  
**General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 4, folder 11
- People 1854-1911 and undated.**  
**Physical Description:** 27 prints.  
**General Physical Description note:** no content

- box 5                                   **Martin Rice, Reubel. Album ca.1900-1910.**  
  **Scope and Contents note**  
  Primarily photographs of Mills College and Carson City area; includes cyanotype prints.
- box 4,  
folder 12-14                           **Modjeska, Helena**  
box 4, folder 12                       **Actors who appeared with Modjeska 1907 and undated.**  
  **Physical Description:** 4 prints.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 4, folder 13                       **Home, "Arden" ca. 1888-1902 and undated.**  
  **Physical Description:** 6 prints.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 4, folder 14                       **Portraits 1890-1905 and undated.**  
  **Physical Description:** 16 prints.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content  
  **Scope and Contents note**  
  Primarily Modjeska in stage roles and Count Bozenta.
- box 6, folder 1                       **Modjeska, Ralph 1892-1916 and undated.**  
  **Physical Description:** 3 prints.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 5, box 6,  
folder 2-5                           **Rice family**  
box 6, folder 2                       **In California 1906 and undated.**  
  **Physical Description:** 13 prints.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content  
  **Scope and Contents note**  
  Includes photographs of the Mt. Lowe railway and San Francisco after the earthquake.
- box 6, folder 3                       **In Ohio, undated**  
  **Physical Description:** 4 prints.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 6, folder 4                       **In Orange County 1891-1933 and undated.**  
  **Physical Description:** 16 prints.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 6, folder 5                       **People 1920-1961 and undated.**  
  **Physical Description:** 68 prints.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 5                                   **Framed portraits ca. 1930-1960.**  
  **Physical Description:** 5 items.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 6, folder 6-7                       **Rice, Cora**  
box 6, folder 6                       **Portraits 1911-1919 and undated.**  
  **Physical Description:** 35 prints.  
  **General Physical Description note:** no content
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box 6, folder 7	<b>Stage roles 1886-1900 and undated.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 7 prints. <b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 6, folder 8	<b>Rice, Harvey 1898 and undated.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 12 prints. <b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 6, folder 9	<b>Rice, Harvey and Maria, undated</b> <b>General Physical Description note:</b> 7 prints, including 1 ambrotype and 1 tintype.
box 7, folder 1	<b>Rice, James S. 1870-1921 and undated.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 42 prints. <b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 5, box 7, folder 2-5 box 5	<b>Rice, James S. and Cora</b> <b>Album ca.1900.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Primarily photographs of the Rice Ranch in Tustin.
box 5 box 7, folder 2	<b>Cartes-de-visite album of family portraits ca.1870-1880</b> <b>Friends, Orange County 1896-1921 and undated.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 11 prints. <b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 7, folder 3	<b>Boyd, Dr. J. P., undated</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 3 prints. <b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 7, folder 4	<b>Home, Tustin 1887-1918 and undated.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 38 prints. <b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 7, folder 5	<b>Sons 1885-1910 and undated.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 6 prints. <b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 7, folder 6	<b>Rice, James W. family 1892-1912 and undated.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 20 prints. <b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content
box 7, folder 7	<b>Rice, Merrill 1897 and undated.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 9 prints. <b>General Physical Description note:</b> no content <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Includes photographs of his "wave motor" prototype and its trial at Laguna Beach.
box 7, folder 8, box 8, folder 1 box 8, folder 1	<b>Rice, Percy</b> <b>Album 1912-1942 and undated.</b> <b>Scope and Contents note</b> Primarily ranching photographs and photographs of some of Percy Rice's inventions.



- box 7, folder 8                    **Photographs ca. 1898-1929 and undated.**  
   **Physical Description:** 14 prints  
   **General Physical Description note:** no content
- Stereographs**
- box 8, folder 2                    **Bridge collapse, Ohio(?) ca.1880.**  
   **Physical Description:** 8 cards.  
   **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 8, folder 3                    **California ca.1880.**  
   **Physical Description:** 2 cards.  
   **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 8, folder 4                    **Chicago fire 1871.**  
   **Physical Description:** 9 cards.  
   **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 8, folder 5                    **Niagara Falls ca.1880.**  
   **Physical Description:** 5 cards.  
   **General Physical Description note:** no content
- box 8, folder 6                    **United States and England ca.1880.**  
   **Physical Description:** 6 cards.  
   **General Physical Description note:** no content