

There is not much documented history on the gentleman that Coyne Creek is name after, mainly just stories passed down from generation to generation. Credit to Jim Hoy for compiling the following information:

“Coyne immigrated to Mexico from Germany sometime before mid-nineteenth century. From Mexico he worked his way north to Santa Fe, then followed the Santa Fe Trail east into the Flint Hills. This was well before Kansas Territory opened for legal settlement in 1854, so he truly was a squatter in the dugout he made and lived in.

Coyne had no visible means of support; he didn't farm or have a job. With his Black Forest, muzzle-loading rifle, he would shoot prairie chickens off shocks of feed his neighbors had made, giving the landowners half.

In May of 1863 Dick Yeager, a follower of Quantrill, led a band of Confederate guerillas on a raid into Chase and Morris counties. Local lore again has it that the border ruffians were going to camp near where Clements is now, along the Cottonwood River, a day or two before getting to Council Grove. But there weren't enough trees there to support a campfire, so they rode up Coyne Creek looking for timber.

Less than half a mile from Coyne's dugout they spotted some cottonwood trees at what is now called Coyne Spring, about half a mile south on a draw that runs into Coyne Creek. Had they gone on east up Coyne Creek and found Coyne himself, he might well have been killed as a Union sympathizer.”