

" ROUNDTREE, ROSS : : INTERVIEW .

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Interview with
Ross Roundtree, Texanna
About Charles M. Randall

Charles M. Randall was a prominent and well to do citizen of the Texanna vicinity. He has been actively identified with the development of what is now McIntosh County and experienced the hardships and even horrors of the early days in the Indian Territory.

He was born April 10, 1860, in Copiah County, Mississippi.

His father was Wiley M. Randall; his grandfather, S. J. Randall, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

His father taught school in Mississippi when a young man.

He served four years in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, being a commissioned officer in the Cavalry of General Armstrong's brigade. He was captured by the enemy at the battle of Corinth, and confined in prison at Rock Island, Illinois, for about nine months; after his exchange he rejoined his command.

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He moved with his family to Texas in 1868, locating at Thornton, in Limestone County, where he was successful in the mercantile business and farming.

He lived to the good old age of eighty two years, passing away March 19, 1905, in Thornton, Texas. He was a man of deep religious faith, an inheritance from his Scotch ancestors. Although not a member of any church until after sixty years of age, he was never found without a Bible in his pocket.

He married Elizabeth Wamack a native of Mississippi. To this union were born, Charles M., Lula, Oscar, Jarret G., Alma and John K.

Charles M. Randall acquired a practical knowledge of books while young, in the public school of Thornton, Texas.

At the age of eighteen years, he left his father's home and came to the Creek Nation, Indian Territory, locating near Eufaula, in what is now McIntosh County. He engaged in buying and selling walnut timber for two years, moving the logs east of Eufaula to an inland town named Brooken, situated on the south side of the Canadian River in the Choctaw Nation.

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After his marriage to an Indian maiden of one-fourth Choctaw blood, he engaged in farming and stock raising.

In 1908 he moved to Texanna, McIntosh County, and clerked in the Forsyth Ogden general merchandise store.

When Mr. Randall first located in Bufaula, the Creek Nation was in a state of turmoil. The few white people now living there were desperate characters and were aided by the worst element of Creek Indians for two years in their lawlessness.

Mr. Randall served as deputy United States marshal, and was associated with the capture of many criminals. He witnessed the hanging at Fort Smith, Arkansas, of eleven desperate men, ten of whom were white, and the other an Indian.

The Choctaws had a law in force making sorcery a felony, punishable by death after the third offence, and he saw three Indians tried and convicted under this law, and saw them shot.

The parents of Ross Roundtree were renters from Mr. Charles M. Randall. The Roundtrees were share-croppers at Texanna. Mrs. Jones, East of Texanna, the stepmother of Ross Roundtree, also corroborates the statements in this interview.