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Civil War
Retreat of Opothleyahola
Pawnee Agency
Billie Little

6128

James H. Fleming
Field Worker
June 5, 1937

LEGEND
From a Manuscript obtained from
Nannie Straughn and Orville Hohimer
of
Ripley and Stillwater, Oklahoma
Written in 1928 by
W. E. Hohimer, Father.

As I am a Civil War veteran eighty-two years old, this is a Civil War story.

I knew a Creek citizen in the year of 1887, named Goob Childers, in Red Fork, Indian Territory, who has since died. It seems that, according to Childers, at the beginning of the Civil War Chief Paseola, with his Union band of Creeks, attempted to go north to stay with the Union; Goob Childers was one of the Chief's party.

He said they proceeded west and crossed the Cimarron river, just south of the Twin Mounds(in Payne County) and went into camp on Salt Creek, north of the Twin Mounds.

Their scouts came in and reported that the enemy was pursuing them. They arranged for the battle.

Childers was a boy fourteen years old at the time. It seems that the Government had paid the Indians a large payment of money, according to their tribes.

While they were arranging the camp for battle, which they expected would take place the next morning, he saw

two old Indians put the money(maybe fifty or sixty thousand dollars) on a horse and take it off to hide it. They were gone a little while and came back. The next morning the battle was on. The two old Indians who hid the money were killed. All those who were not killed ran and escaped the best they could, some on foot and some on horseback. They left the camp, wagons and everything in charge of the enemy which consisted of rebel Indians and Texas rangers.

After the war, in 1866, which records will show and many now living will remember, the Government made a treaty with the Five Civilized Tribes, and required of them for the part they had taken in the rebellion the right to place other civilized Indians on their unoccupied lands. In consequence the Pawnees, Otoes , and others were located on these lands. Now, one Billy Little, with whom I was also personally acquainted, but who is now dead, was clerk at the Pawnee agency after the Pawnees were located there.

He was detailed by the agent to look after the cattle herd, which was kept by the Government to feed the Indians. While Little was looking after the cattle

on Salt Creek, he came across the site of the Twin Mound Battle, and reported it to the agent. The agent instructed him to take a Government team and gather up a wagon load of the wagon irons and haul them to the agency where they were used at the blacksmith shop.

Little told me where he found those irons and I have since located the place, there being fragments of broken dishes and pottery still in evidence.

I have spent part of several days looking for the marks on trees and stones, for the last that Goob Chilliers had to say on the subject was that the money is still there and I, also, believe it is.

Early Day Post Office Sites

from memory of

Nannie Streughn, Ripley, Oklahoma.

Plumb Post Office

Six(6) miles west of Cushing, Oklahoma, on north side of highway 33, was in use soon after 1891.

Windom Post Office

Five (5) miles east and two (2) north of Stillwater, Oklahoma.

In use in 1890.

Clayton Post Office

Six (6) miles east and five (5) miles south of Stillwater, Oklahoma. In use in 1891.