

RIDGWAY, J. J.

INTERVIEW

176

ADDITIONAL TITLE

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AN OLD IRON KETTLE

From an Interview with J. J. Ridgway
 owner of the kettle
 Etta B. Mason, Field worker
 June 28, 1947.

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The kettle is old and broken, but it has a history. It was used with many others like it to make salt during the Civil War.

The salt works are located between Boggy Depot and Voca. They are about five miles south and six miles west of Atoka. The works are two miles northwest of Voca.

The works are on Salt Creek. A few of the brick chimneys and the kettles are placed for boiling still remain. There are broken kettles everywhere and every so often one steps

on a hole, which on close inspection is found to be a grave.

Gravestones and flat stones are there but no names can be found.

The water of the spring is clear and the falls are beautiful and the pool under the falls makes a grand swimming hole.

The pot has no legs but is rounded on the bottom. The edges and inside of the pot are broken and rough. It looks as if it had been lined with something smoother than the iron

2

of which it is made. Whatever the lining was it can be flaked off with the sand.

Mr. Ridgway bought the kettle from John Lewis, an Indian. Lewis' father had owned it and given it to John.

It holds fifty gallons of water and is used for watering at the school.

There is one other like it in the Voca community, but I do not know who has the other one.

Mr. J. J. Ridgway lives in the Voca school community, his post office being Caney, which is twelve miles south of Atoka, Oklahoma.