

FOUST, GEORGE (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

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Journalist, Elizabeth Duncan,
November 16, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. George Foust,
Salt Fork, Oklahoma.

It may be of interest to a great many to know how the Mt. Vernon Cemetery started, as all things had to have a beginning in our new country. Prior to January, 1895, there had not been any deaths in our community and a cemetery had not been needed.

On January 5, 1895, Mrs. Nancy J. Jackson, the mother of the Foust family, passed away at her home near the Kansas line. She had no relatives or friends buried in that neighborhood and it was natural to wish to lay her away among her friends and loved ones. Her remains were brought to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jim Harney, as Mr. and Mrs. Foust were in Kansas at the time. A lot was set aside and her grave was made on the George Foust farm and she was the first one buried in what is now known as the Mt. Vernon Cemetery.

In March of that same year Mr. and Mrs. Heusel lost a baby son. Mr. H. M. Utterback came to see if they planned to have a cemetery there. After talking it over they decided

they would go ahead and have a cemetery there. So this little one was the second to be buried there.

George Foust then decided to give them a deed for two acres to be used for cemetery purposes.

In April of 1895 Mr. and Mrs. Watt Maple buried a baby boy and so--on and on.

The first officers of the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association were, John Heusel, President, George Foust, Secretary, and Lee Henshaw, Treasurer. I believe these men were in office until 1924 when it was decided to put the ladies in charge, since which time the Ladies Cemetery Association has been trying to improve and beautify the little city of the dead and at the present time many remark what a beautiful place it is.