

WALCOTT, ARTHUR (Mrs.) INTERVIEW

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Amelia F. Harris, Interviewer  
Indian-Pioneer History  
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An Interview with Mrs. Arthur Walcott,  
State Pension Department, State Capitol,  
5th Floor, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dr. and Mrs. S. R. McCarty, my grandparents,  
who formerly lived on the Pearl River in Alabama, were  
brought to Indian Territory by boat down the Mississippi  
and Arkansas Rivers to Fort Smith, and then by wagons  
and teams to Cavanaugh Post Office in 1848. My grand-  
mother McCarty was one-fourth Choctaw Indian. Grand-  
father was Irish. Through my grandmother's Indian  
blood they could take up all the land they wanted in  
the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory.

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The first land they took was about seven miles  
west of Fort Smith on the Military Road between Fort  
Smith and Fort Towsan. They brought several slaves  
with them and they immediately erected a two-story  
log house, with a big hall dividing the log rooms  
which opened into a long combination dining room and  
kitchen. These buildings were covered by clapboard  
shingles and work was done by the slaves. Then negro  
quarters and barns were built; all out of logs.

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After this was done they set about clearing and breaking out land and improving it as rapidly as they could. That same fall Grandpa set out one hundred fruit trees. He had a big orchard. Later they built a cotton gin, grist mill and sorghum mill. All of these were run by horse power.

Grandmother was very industrious. She and the women slaves would card the wool and the cotton, spin it into yarn, and weave it into cloth for themselves, and the servants' clothes. Grandmother took many prizes at the Fort Smith County Fair on the jellies, jams, and preserves she would enter. She gave me a silver napkin ring; one of her prizes. (I still have it).

I remember one peculiar habit Grandpa had was to have the negro men, over sixteen years old, to come by the kitchen door every morning before they went to the field, with their tin cups and he would pour out each one a drink of whisky and in the evening when they came in from the field, he would repeat this performance. He never gave more than a generous drink

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and no one ever got drunk. He got his liquors from New Orleans, four and five-gallon jugs at a time.

He raised wonderful crops and had plenty of hog for meat. In a way they fared better than the average farmer.

Grandma taught all of her daughters to spin cloth. Grandpa wanted some special weaving done for him a suit. He told mother, she was the oldest girl, if she would spin this goods for him that he would get her a "store bought" dress. She did the work for him and he bought a flowered lawn and paid \$60.00 for the dress.

The social life of Grandpa's family was very limited--Sunday School and Circuit Rider preachers holding camp meetings, an occasional spelling bee or a country square dance, and Indian schools. This is about all except horseback riding. The ladies always rode on a side saddle. They also wore a long black riding skirt. This was to protect their clothes from mud or dust.

Grandpa went to Fort Smith and tried to enlist in the Confederate Army but his hair was white and he

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was told he was too old. After the War was over Grandpa was left with big chests full of confederate money, worthless, and all the slaves set free. Some of them stayed with Grandpa.

There is an old cemetery close to the Leard home (Mrs. Leard sister to Grandma), just about a block from the house. This was the family burial ground. The ground sloped toward a small creek. My grandparents and some of my uncles and aunts are buried here. This is all I can remember of my grandparents.

My father, Dr. Daniel Hailey, was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. All members of his family were killed by a plague when he was yet a youth. At the opening of the Civil War, he volunteered as a private. He served throughout the conflict under General Stonewall Jackson. He was offered a Commission if he would enter a hospital as a physician and surgeon, as he was a Doctor. He refused this comparatively safe position preferring the ranks of a private.

Immediately after the conclusion of the war

he migrated to the Indian Territory just over the Arkansas line at Skullyville. Here he taught a school for Indians. It was in the school room that a romance developed and culminated in his marriage to Miss Hellen McCarty, one of his Indian pupils. This was in 1868.

Father then took his bride to Doaksville, their first home. He began the practice of medicine and in that capacity he operated the first Drug Store, which was just a long shelf in one corner of his office. They lived here about four years then moved to Perryville, stage route cross-roads from Fort Smith to Fort Washita, and from the Kansas line to Menison, Texas. We were living at Perryville when the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad was built through here.

Father continued his practice of medicine and run a store, too, during these times.

Father said that in the early days the Choctaw Indians used to pick up coal from the top of the ground and take it to the blacksmith shops and sell it. They even loaded up wagons and took it as far as Fort Sill and Arbuckle and sold it. They knew

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nothing of mining and simply picked up the coal without any effort on their part.

In those days there was a tribal law forbidding white men prospecting for coal in the Territory. Father told an interesting story of how the Governor of the Choctaw Nation once ordered out the righthorsemen against J. J. McAlister, Tandy Walker, and others who were trying to build a coal line to Krebs. This was a violation of tribal laws and the Governor determined he would take extreme measures to stop the would-be railway builders. Just as the troops were getting close, Dad warned his friends and they got away to a place of safety, leaving Indian Territory until the trouble quieted down.

Then the Federal Government intervened and the trouble was ended and the road built through.

Dad's first venture in the coal operating business was in 1874. He bought his first interests at Krebs from two Indians and paid them \$50.00 for it. Later on he and J. J. McAlister became operators of large interests.

In 1882 we moved to Savannah and was living

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there when the big mine explosion occurred in 1888, that nearly destroyed the town of Savannah and injured and killed hundreds of miners and residents.

We then moved to South McAlester and father entered into a new profession in 1875, along with the old. He and Captain Granville McPherson established the first newspaper in the Choctaw Nation, The Star Vindicator, a small paper, which was printed with an old Washington hand press. The newspaper business broke up when Captain McPherson took his press to Texas in 1880.

Father quit practicing medicine in 1881, and opened up the mines in Savannah leasing the same ~~the~~ to/ could interests. He operated a general merchandise store in 1896. We returned to McAlester and lived there until father's death.

During the time of Dad's moving here and there, his family increased. Five children were added to the family and the care of us children fell upon Mother's shoulders. She did the cooking, sewing, washing, and ironing. Every summer she would put up fruit and vegetables to last us until garden



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time again. She would dry peaches and apples. They were cut up and my brothers would get up on the shed, spread an old sheet out and scatter the fruit all over the sheet. About once a day we had to go up on the shed and stir the fruit about so all sides would get the sun. If it started to rain we brought the peaches in. When they were cured they were put in a flour sack and hung up. We cut corn off of the cob and dried it the same way. We hilled up Irish potatoes and turnips every fall. Sweet potatoes wouldn't keep good.

Mother raised chickens and turkeys by the hundreds, and every winter she would sell her turkeys and buy our winter clothing. In the summertime we went barefooted, only on Sundays, and then we would carry our shoes and stockings in our hands until we were nearly to the church house, then we would put them on. We were cautioned not to play in them or our Sunday clothes.

Mother was very strict in our training. Each one of us had regular duties to perform about the

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house. She didn't spare the rod if we failed. She always chaperoned us girls on picnics, house parties, and private dances. The parlor door was left open when our "beaus" called. If they stayed later than 11:00 O'Clock, they were told, in a nice way, to leave.

When I was fifteen years old, I went to Baird's college, at Clinton, Missouri. I graduated from there with an A. B. degree in 1892. I met Arthur Walcott at Ex-Governor Cruce's and Chickie LeFlore's wedding. He was best man and I was bridesmaid.

In 1894 Mr. Walcott and I were married. We moved to Ardmore where he was clerk of the Traveling Court under Judge C. B. Stuart. Later he was with the United States Commission.

I took my allotment in Carter County and it joins Ardmore on the southwest. I gave twenty-three acres of my allotment for a Confederate Home. I was made head commissioner in the Pension Department by Governor Johnston. When the Governor was impeached, I lost my job; but was given the position as secretary by Governor Halloway and I still hold this position.

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When Dad was commander of the Oklahoma  
Confederate Veterans, I, at the same time, was  
President of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.  
A like incident was never known to happen in any  
history, or any other state.

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## HAILEY-WALCOTT

A WEDDING IN HIGH SOCIETY CIRCLES AT SAVANNAH,  
INDIAN TERRITORY, 1894.

The marriage of Miss Lottie M. Hailey to Mr. Arthur Walcott, at Savanna, I. T., was solemnized on the evening of the 12th instant, in the presence of a select few of the friends of the contracting parties, by the Rev. J. M. Porter, of Krebs. It was one of the most auspicious marriages that has been celebrated in the Choctaw Nation this year, and was attended with an elegance rarely seen on a similar occasion.

The bride is the charming daughter of Dr. and Mrs. D. M. Hailey, of Savanna, and is one of the most popular and beloved young ladies in Territory society. Combining a charming and graceful personality with the beauties of mind and heart that are the crowning glory of sweet womanhood, she has drawn to herself a large circle of devoted friends and admirers who wish her happiness in the married state. Prominent among her well wishers are her friends in Muskogee, numbering all the society young people of the city.

Mr. Walcott, the groom, is one of the leading

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young lawyers of the Chickasaw Nation, and his numerous friends throughout the territory unite in congratulating him on his success in the "game of matrimony" and in wishing for him and his fair bride a full measure of life's successes and joys.

The attendants at the ceremony were:

Maid of honor, Miss Hattie Hailey, Savanna, I. T.

Best man, Mr. C. P. Bruce, Ardmore, I. T.

First Bride's maid, Miss Jessie Baird, Walsenburg, Colo.

First groomsman, Mr. W. E. Hailey, Savanna, I. T.

Second bride's maid, Miss Sudie McA'ester, McA'ester, I. T.

Second groomsman, Mr. T. DuBois, Ardmore, I. T.

The wedding march was played by Miss Daisy LaFlore.

The bride wore a costume of white brocade silk, full

court train, trimmings of pearls; veil fastened with wreath of orange blossoms; carried bouquet of white roses.

Maid of honor, Miss Hattie Hailey, wore lavender silk, trimmings of irridescent pearls; pink roses.

First bride's maid, Miss Jessie Baird, wore pink crepe de chene combined with green velvet; lace trimmings; cream roses.

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Second bride's maid, Miss Suddie McAlester, wore yellow silk; lace trimmings; pink roses.

Decorations--Wedding bell, white chrysanthemums. Rooms decorated with cut flowers and mistletoe. Potted plants were used also for decoration.

Following is a list of presents received by the happy couple:

Pickle castor, Mr. and Mrs. Parker.

Card receiver, Mr. Moran Scott.

Lamp, J. C. Egelhof and family.

Pair of vases, F. J. Smith and family.

Venetian vase, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Hailey.

Calendar, Mr. Geo. Culbertson.

Box of roses, Mrs. Geo. Bolling.

Silver salt set, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Bostwick.

Silver berry bowl, Alex Rennie and sister.

Bronze figure, Mr. Will Hailey.

Celery dish, Mr. Allen Wright.

Napkin ring, Mr. J. Fitzgerald.

Napkin ring, Mr. T. Blackman.

Calendar, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McKee.

Book, "Song of the Bells," Misses M. and A. Biffer.

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- Silver fruit bowl, Miss Ida McCurtain.
- Silver pin tray and \$10 bill, Mr. and Mrs. McAlester.
- Silver bon bon basket, Mrs. Horace Smith.
- Paper knife, Messrs. Fred Owen and F. Nichols.
- Book, "Our Wedding Day," Messrs. E. Violette and C. Lamkin.
- Clock, Mr. I. J. Singleton.
- Silver bread tray, Mr. F. T. Mohler.
- Silver crumb tray, Mr. and Mrs. A. Z. English.
- Sugar bowl and cream pitcher, Messrs. J. W. Clevens,  
D. W. Yancy and H. D. Muir.
- Silver berry bowl, Mr. C. T. Jackson.
- Lamp, Messrs. D. F. Dickey and C. E. Atkinson.
- Cut glass olive dish, Misses Annie and May Severs.
- Rug, Mr. and Mrs. Hokey.
- Cut glass water bottle, Dr. S. C. A. Rubey.
- Bon bon spoon, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Warren.
- Silver tea service, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Camerson.
- Japanese vase, S. Gurrier.
- Japanese vase, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Clelland.
- Japanese rose jar, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Evans.
- Table linen, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Jones.
- One dozen glasses jelly, Mrs. M. A. McCarty.

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- Japanese vase, Miss Mattie Phillips.  
 Bed spread, Master Ed. Hill.  
 Glass pitcher, Maggie Ryan.  
 Cake stand, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson.  
 Towel, Mrs. Carrie Worley.  
 Silver table, Mrs. O. B. Smith.  
 Towel, Mrs. W. T. Culbertson.  
 Bon bon basket, Mr. and Mrs. E. Poe Harris.  
 Table scarf, Mrs. N. E. Smith.  
 Bread, cake and paring knives, Mr. and Mrs. E. Poe Harris.  
 Pie knife, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bowen.  
 Sugar spoon, Miss Sophie Lucas.  
 H.g., Mrs. Anthony Jones.  
 Bon bon tray, Miss Helen Hailey Jolley.  
 Silver cake basket, Mr. and Mrs. E. Jolley.  
 Card receiver, Mr. and Mrs. S. Jackson.  
 Sofa pillow, Miss Ella Flowerree.  
 Dessert and tea spoons, Mrs. and Mr. H. T. Baird, Miss  
 I. J. Baird, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. True.  
 Silver tea spoons, table spoons, knives and forks, Dr. and  
 Mrs. D. M. Hailey.



- Drawn linen napkins, Miss Lula Davis.
- Book, "Our Wedding Day," Miss Bertie Adams.
- Table linen, Miss Hattie Hailey.
- Silver tea spoons, "Watkins family," Irma Bentley, Sudie McAlester, Jessie Baird, Mrs. R. Hairo, Maude Tebrell.
- Wisque figure, Miss Sadie Doyle.
- Salad bowl, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wise.
- Onyx table, Dr. and Mrs. E. M. Hailey.
- Glove clasps, Mrs. H. T. Worrell.
- Fruit knives, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Chambers.
- Toile dresser set, Mrs. C. W. Sloan.
- Clock, Mr. Charles Knowlton.
- Gold spoon, Mr. and Mrs. S. Francisco.
- One-half dozen after dinner coffee spoons, Mr. and Mrs. McKelvy.
- Drawn linen center piece, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McAlester.
- Japanese vase, Mrs. Mary Doyle.
- Comfort, Miss Annie Shaver.
- Picture, Miss Ida Gregg.
- Silver butter tins, Mr. and Mrs. Holden.
- Silver berry bowl, Capt. Chas. I. Flore and daughters.
- Handkerchief case, Miss Sadie Jones.

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Nut bowl, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Earnest.

Fruit bowl, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Ainsworth.

Silver puff box, Dr. and Mrs. Allen.

Silver syrup pitcher, E. S. Hailey.

Silver pin tray, Fielding Lewis.

Clock, Mr. and Mrs. James Elliott.

Table linen, Mr. and Mrs. Otterson.

Fruit bowl, Mr. and Mrs. Argo.

Nut cracker and picks, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Doyle.

Silver bon bon basket, Mr. and Mrs. A. Telle.

Silver card receiver, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Cruce.

Mirror, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Culbertson.

Table scarf, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Ryan.

Berry spoon, Misses J. Jones, M. Vassar and J. T. Thompson.

Sofa pillow, Mrs. I. Crozier.

Salt Set, Miss Hodges.