

MAXWELL, CHARLES (MRS.) ELIZABETH HOSMER NORWOOD

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Investigator, Etta D. Mason,
October 18, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. Charles Maxwell,
Atoka.

The following clipping was found among letters and papers that had belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth Hosmer Norwood. Mrs. Norwood died several years ago and her papers, letters, and clippings are in the possession of Mrs. Charles Maxwell, Atoka, Oklahoma. Mrs. Norwood has a son Marshall Norwood, living at Durant. He gave me permission to look through his mother's papers and to use anything that I saw fit to use. There are many valuable clippings and letters and also a Confederate flag presented by J. S. Murrow to the Standley Posey Chapter, Atoka.

Bald Knobs Shaken by Many Explosions.

A representative of the Citizen, while in Caddo, recently met A. M. Russell, one of the old settlers of this country. He was here in the years of '62, '63, '64, not as a citizen but as a Confederate soldier.

He was in many of the battles that were fought in the Indian Territory between the Union and Confederate soldiers. He was at the battle of Old Perryville, a few miles north of where Kiowa stands. He had charge of a company of Confederates and was sent by General Stand ^{etie} to try to locate the enemy. He found them in camp and concealed his men in the brush on both sides of the road, then went himself almost into the camp of his foes. When they saw him, they pursued him. He ran in the direction of where his men were hidden. He passed by their hiding place and when the Federal Cavalry came to this spot, the Confederates fired into their ranks, almost annihilating the whole command.

Mr. Russell was with General Cooper when encamped near Atoka. At that time, 1863, there were but two houses at this place; one of them being the home of James Davis, and the other belonged to the widow Flock. He saw the eighteen or twenty Confederates buried whose remains rest in the little cemetery just north of town. He says that they all died with measles, which disease

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was an epidemic among the soldiers of the south. He thinks that these men belonged to the 27th Texas Cavalry.

Mr. Russell says that while they were encamped north of Atoka, fire broke out and burned over the whole country. After burning the grass off the Bald Knobs, the fire burned deep into the mountain sides; and while burning every few minutes there would be tremendous explosions, which threw fragments of rocks into the air. Many pieces were hurled fully one mile away and the fire lasted many weeks. Mr. Russell believes that these mountains are full of coal or asphaltum as the fire lasted many weeks and that oil in burning caused the explosions.

His Command never surrendered. General Staudtatie simply announced to them that the war was over and told them to go home.

Mr. Russell has almost reached the age limit allotted to men but is vigorous for one of his age. He has been a subscriber and reader of the Indian Citizen since it was founded twenty years ago.

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Mr. James B. Cobb of Mayer, Oklahoma, having preserved this copy all these years and recently placed it in the hands of the "United Daughters of the Confederacy," because of the above historical information, the Local Chapter, U. D. C. wish to take this method of expressing sincere thanks to Mr. Cobb for his thoughtful kindness.

Mr. Cobb says he knew veteran Russell quite well and that their personal friendship extended through a number of years.

Veteran Russell has since answered the last "Roll Call."

Father Murrow and Confederate Veteran A. E. Fulsom and others have contributed to the local U. D. C. Chapter much valuable information relative to the old Confederate Cemetery north of Atoka.

Surely no other city, and surely no other county in the state of Oklahoma can claim greater "Historical wealth" than rightfully belongs to Atoka and to Atoka County. How beautifully befitting then it would be "Lest we Forget," to mark this hallowed spot by erect-

ing a suitable granite memorial where sleeps hundreds of brave soldiers in their last and unmarked graves. Surely there can be no other improvement that would speak more for the good name of our little city than to erect such a memorial and otherwise beautify the grounds where sleep our "Deathless Dead."

(Signed)

Elizabeth Hosmer--Norwood

Cor. Sec'y Standley Posey Chapter 1209,

Atoka,