

**LUTIE MARY
HAILEY
WALCOTT
1872-1962**



**REAL
DAUGHTER
OF THE
CONFEDERACY**

During the Civil War, most of Indian Territory supported the Confederacy, and about 3,500 Indians served in Confederate units. The Five Civilized Tribes – Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole – had been removed a generation earlier by the federal government, but their cultural ties to the southeast states where they once lived were still very strong. The government’s pledge to open the lands to white settlement, also angered them. Lutie Walcott spent her life making sure that the Confederacy – and its veterans – would not be forgotten.

Lutie Mary Hailey was born in September 1872 in Perryville, Choctaw Nation, near McAlester. Her father Dr. Daniel Morris Hailey was born in 1841 in Baton Rouge. He served under General Stonewall Jackson in the Confederate Army. Her mother Helen Marr McCarty was born in 1851 in Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. Daniel taught school in Fort Smith, where he met his pupil Helen. They were married on September 24, 1868.

Dr. Hailey moved into Indian Territory in 1868 to practice medicine. In 1898 he established the town of Haileyville, claiming a tract of land east of McAlester and opening the area’s first coal mines. He started the Hailey-Ola Mining Company, leasing coal land from the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad. Haileyville was populated with Italians, Indians and Russians working in the mines of on the railroads. The community and its close neighbor, Hartshorne, were known as the “twin cities” of Pittsburg County due to their proximity.

Lutie graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1893 from Baird’s College in Clinton, Missouri and married Arthur Walcott on December 12, 1894. They eventually settled in Ardmore. She worked under her father in the Confederate Pension Department in the state capital, and was commissioner of pensions under Governors Henry S. Johnston and Robert S. Kerr. She became secretary of the department under Governor William J. Holloway.

Dr. Hailey served as Commander of the Oklahoma Division of the United Confederate Veterans (ODUCV), of which he remained an active member when he wasn’t serving as the chapter’s commander. Lutie was always active in the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), serving as the national president and holding many local and state offices. She attended every national convention of the UDC until her death.

In 1906 Serena Carter rallied the Ardmore UDC chapter to establish a home for indigent veterans, their wives, and widows. A temporary site was established at McAlester and existed until 1909, when the ODUCV and UDC formed a private corporation and began soliciting funds to build a permanent home at Ardmore on a 24-acre plot donated by Lutie Walcott, from her Choctaw allotment.

Writer Ora Eddleman Reed wrote about them for *Sturm’s Magazine* in 1910. “The women who are active in the work have come to Oklahoma from the old southern states, where loyalty to the cause for which the South suffered, bled and died, has never faltered, where heroic women stepped forth directly after the war and picked up the thread of broken fortunes, made new homes in places left desolate by cruel war, buoyed the helpless, and by womanly strength and courage have done a noble part in the upbuilding of the South.”

When the construction of the Veterans’ Home was halted due to a shortage of funds, Governor Lee Cruce agreed to complete the facility if the corporation transferred the deed to the state of Oklahoma. In 1911 the UDC state chapters completed furnishing the rooms, and the home opened to 85 residents with the UDC chapters continuing to support the home and its occupants. As late as 1955, twelve Confederate widows remained, in addition to veterans from subsequent American wars.

The veterans’ home continues to provide care for male and female veterans to honor their military service. Today there are also homes in Claremore, Clinton, Lawton, Norman, Talihina and Sulphur. The Talihina home is moving to Sallisaw. Lutie Walcott was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1940. She died in July 1962 at age 89 and is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Ardmore. The land for the cemetery came from part of her family’s Choctaw allotment where she owned hundreds of acres of land so the people of Ardmore could have a cemetery on the south side of town.