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BATTLE OF CAVING BANK
OR
BIRD CREEK

This battle between Creek Indian southern triips, and Union forces, was fought the latter part of the year 1861.

This battle was preceeded by a fight between these same forces at or near the present site of Keystone. It resulted in a victory for the southern forces, Creek Indians. The union forces withdrew to the east. A few days later, the southern forces moved up and again contacted the Union forces at, or near, Bird Creek, about one mile east and two miles south of the present site of Sperry, Oklahoma. This battle was fought in December, 1861, which resulted in a victory for the southern force.

One-hundred and ten people were killed in the fight at Keystone, and sixty killed at the battle of Bird Creek.

After the battle, the Union Creek forces retreated to the north, and were followed a few days later by the confederate forces which caught up with them at Hominy.

The third battle of this series was fought here, in Hominy, and resulted in an almost innahilation of the union forces. The removal of the forces retreated to the north, and finally to Kansas and protection.

After the battle of Bird Creek, the union forces retreated north, being on their way to Kansas and safety. However, after a few days, were overtaken at Hominy Creek, where they were camped, by the same Confederate confederate force which they had fought both at Keystone and Bird Creek. This battle resulted in almost complete destruction of the union Creek forces. The remnant retreated to the north, and finally reached Kansas and safety.

These three battles occured the latter part of the month of November (that is, Keystone and Bird Creek battle), and the Hominy creek massacre occured in December, 1861.

The leader of the union or loyal Creeks was Hontneola. I could not, or have not, learned the name of the confederate leader, nor the name or number of company or regiment.

As told by: C. W. Grimes, Tulsa, Oklahoma

To: W. T. Holland