

Bentonville and there they dug in. General Curtis dug in. He built this huge breast work. All right, I don't have a diagram of it, and it's the only battle I want to go into a little detail. So, the plan was: Vandorn was going to circle around behind General Curtis, the Union Commander; he was catching from the rear and the, General Price was to come in from the other and they were going to put him pitch movement and they were going to destroy him. As he was slipping his army around behind General Curtis, Curtis found out about this. So Curtis just came in and attacked the flank of Vandorn and completely annihilated it. Okay, here's what happened about it in the battle. You want to know about it. Everybody wants to know about what the Cherokee did in one big battle they fought. When they, all right what would these Indians do if they'd never seen a cannon--they call fire wagon. That's what they called them. John Drew lined up his Cherokees as full blood up while Stand Watie had his mixed blood up here and they ordered charge. Well, when the cannon started belching their fires toward the Cherokees, the Cherokees couldn't take it--they broke. They didn't know what to do. They hadn't seen things belching a hundred cannons shooting constantly big balls of fire. They fled and they panicked--which proved one thing: the Cherokees could not fight successfully the White Man's War, the Civil War. Stand Watie told his troops to go ahead and disperse. And he said, "Fight the best you can." You know how they fought? They climbed the trees. They hid in the bushes. Stand Watie's group finally captured a Federal battery. Well, what do Indians do with a Federal battery when they captured it? They didn't know how to load it. They didn't know how to shoot.

John Drew's men never went into battle. Colonel Drews, John Ross's Indians turned tail and ran for the second time, and they ran as fast as they could run, and they ran as fast as they could get back here at Park Hill. They didn't want any part of that battle. Well, Watie fought the best that he could and that wasn't too good. Here was a controversy that came up. You were an Indian. You were fighting somebody and you see an enemy laying in the ground; and two hundred years before, your ancestors when they got mad at somebody, what do they do? They