

Mary Stapler. My wife's mother married a Stapler originally. In talking about some of these things, I sometimes got some sidelights about some Stapler history from some of my in-laws. I thought that was very interesting. And up there, they set up a little school and they lived quite handsomely in the North during the Civil War. Well, of course, situations were bad back and forth.

They have a little side light to the Civil War that happened close-by was they had some Negro troops out at Fort Gibson--the North did; and they were haying out there, haying some horses. And in that particular area, that happened, Stand Watie's group came down and captured the Negroes. I would like to say that Stand Watie many times was merciful but he told the slaves--he says, "Well, you made a mistake." And he says, "the only good slave, the run-a-way slave, the dead slave." and he shot every one of the Union soldiers in uniform that was colored. Of course, he slaughtered them. Out at Manor Byrum--Do ya'll know where that is? That's a little creek between here and Fort Gibson; and there's where he killed all those Union colored soldiers.

The last major battle here was fought down south of Muskogee at Oktaha called Battle of Honey Springs. All the Confederates made so many boo boo's in the Civil War. They had ordered their ammunition from Mexico, and when they got the gun, the bullets, to shoot, for the new rifles they got--they were the wrong caliber. So when they got ready to load their guns for the battle, the big battle at Honey Spring, they even had the wrong bullets. And the rest of them wouldn't shoot--the rest, the rest were the wrong caliber. So they fled and retreated and of course, series of defeats and defeats and defeats.

Elias C. Baudinot came back from the North and became the Confederate delegate to Richmond. He wrote a letter to his uncle. He say: "Uncle, don't surrender because," he says, "just then you'll hear that General Robert E. Lee has surrendered. Don't surrender because," he says, "I think we can fight on. Kirby Smith has got 35,000 men and," he says, "we'll fight from Texas and we'll defeat them."

So Stand Watie took this young man at his word because he was