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Interview with Eliza Strout,  
208 South Scraper Street,  
Vinita, Oklahoma---By  
James R. Carselowey, Research Worker.

James R. Carselowey, Research Worker,  
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My name is Eliza (Daniel) Strout. I am 84 years old. I was born near Mayesville, Arkansas, in the Cherokee Nation, before the civil war.

My father's name was Robert Buffington Daniel, and my mother's name was Ann(Taylor) Daniel. My grandfather was James Daniel, who married Mary Buffington. Mary Buffington was a daughter of Ezekiel Buffington, and Mary Emory, and Mary Emory was the daughter of William Emory, and Mary Grant. Mary Grant was the halfbreed daughter of Ludovic Grant, and a full-blood Cherokee woman.

Ludovic Grant, who was said to have been a scotchman,. In a statement recorded on page 301, of the Charleston, South Carolina probate court, in the book of 154 to 1758, in a sworn statement of January, 12, 1756, says, "It is about thirty years since I went into the Cherokee country, where I have resided ever since. I speak their language."

My brothers and sisters were: Oce, Richard Taylor, Walker A. Fannis, Thomas Fox, Susie, Robert Johnson and Eliza Daniel. I am the only one of eight children living, and Oce Daniel is the only one to leave a descendant. His name is Ross Daniel, now Indian

Field clerk, at Tablequah, Oklahoma.

My father moved to Delaware district, and settled on Mustang Creek on the old Military trail road before the war (civil), and was getting a right good start when the war broke out. During the war he had a Military Post and postoffice, called "White Sulphur Springs" It was located at the place we had been living. My father did not take any sides in the war, but my brother Walker A. Daniel joined the Southern army, and my brother Oce (Oceola) Daniel joined the Northern army.

When things begin to get so bad, before the close of the war, my father gathered what few things were left and emigrated to the Choctaw nation, where there were Southern Soldiers to protect us. The Northern soldiers were killing and taking our stock, and anything else they saw, that they wanted, and it seemed like we did not have but very little to take with us. We left our house and farm, but found it very peaceful in the Choctaw nation, until after the war.

During the time we were away, "The battle of Cabin creek" was fought within five miles of where we had been living. It was fought just one mile south of the Mayes county line, where the Old Military trail road crossed Cabin Creek.

The Northern army had been north to Fort Scott, Kansas, after a wagon train load of supplies, when General Cano, in charge of the Southern army, laid in wait for him, on the banks of Cabin creek, and when they came up the battle started. Some of the government teams stampeded and ran away with their loads, and some of them

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jumped off a high bluff on the south bank of the creek, and wrecked the wagons so badly that they were left laying there, and grown-up trees have been found years later where they had grown up inside of a wagon tire.

General Cano won the battle, and took all the supplies the Northern army had and blazed a trail to the northwest, and camped on the Verdigris river, near the present site of Oologah. (Will Roger's Old Home-Town) There were no roads laid out in those days and this trail for years afterward was known as the "Cano Trail."

General Cano was unable to carry all the provisions he had captured on account of the bad condition of the roads, and he poured out barrels of sugar and other provisions to keep the northern soldiers from getting any of it. Nick Thomas, a distant relative of mine, was driving a team for the Southern army, in this battle. Nick lived with us up to the time of his death a few years ago, and told me many things about this battle, which I cannot remember.

When the war was over my father came back to his farm on the Old Military trail where we had the White Sulphur Springs postoffice. We found our farm house occupied by negroes who had been freed during our absence. My brothers had returned home from the army, and moved back to Delaware district with us. The negroes did not want to give up our place, and my father was afraid they would make trouble, and possible cause blood shed, but my brothers were not

afraid of the negroes, and they went to them and offered them some little trifle to get out, and they moved out, with out any trouble, but that night they slipped back and stole three head of our horses, and started to Kansas, by way of Chetopa. They camped in what is "Little Timber Hill," in the Territory, where my brothers overtook them before daylight the next morning, re-captured their horses, and sent the negroes on the road to where all horse-thieves went in those days.

#### Years Following War

I never expect to witness any thing like the years following the civil war. When we came back home everything had been destroyed, no stock, no game, and nothing to eat, until we raised a crop. We were broke and had nothing to buy with, and we thought we would starve to death, before we raised anything, but everybody went to work, and we pulled through.

My brother Walker Daniel married Hester Ketchum a Delaware Indian, and settled at the foot of the hill by a big spring now known as the John Hawkins Hill near the town of Ketchum. In 1875 he was elected to the Cherokee council and served four years to 1879. He died shortly thereafter and his widow married John Hawkins, a white man, who had been an adopted citizen long enough when allotment came that he received an allotment, the same as an Indian.

My father was elected as assistant chief of the Cherokees, and

died during his term of office. I do not recall the year.

I first married John Thomas McSpadden, from whom I was separated, and later married Frederick W. Strout, who died in 1909.

In the early 70's my father moved to Vinita and built a home at 116 South First Street. The old house is there yet, just as he built it, and is among the oldest houses in Vinita.

#### KNEW GENERAL STAND WATIE

I knew General Stand Watie, the noted Cherokee General. They lived up the Grand river a little ways from where we lived before and after the civil war. I was well acquainted with his last wife, Sallie "atie. She moved to Vinita after his death and lived as neighbor to my mother's family.

General Stand Watie was married four times as follows: Elizabeth Fields, Isabel Hicks, Eleanor Looney and Sallie Caroline Bell. The latter was a sister of Co. Jim Bell, who also lived on Grand river, in Delaware district. Sallie Watie was also an aunt of Lucien Burr (Hooley) Bell, who became famous in Cherokee politics.

Stand Watie died in September, 1871, and I think was about 65 years old. He was buried in a private cemetery on Honey creek on the east side of Grand river, somewhere near the town of Grove. I do not know the name of the cemetery, or whether it has been made a state cemetery, and I do not know if it is marked with a monument, but I do know that his inscription was put up at his last wife's grave, where she was buried, in the "Old Waitie" cemetery, on the

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west side of Grand river. This monument, erected at the grave of his last wife, Sallie Waitie, has left the impression with a great many people, that Stand Watie was buried near his former home on the west side of Grand River, but it is not true.

COMMENTS BY RESEARCH WORKER

Mrs Strout has given me the names of two other near relatives of Stand Watie, who live near Vinita, and who she thinks might give me a more accurate account of Stand Watie, and I expect to call on them in due time and get their story.

One particular incident about Mrs Strout's family, is that not one of her brothers and sisters are living, and only one has a child living. Hester Hawkins, former wife of Walker Daniel, is living at Ketchum, and is getting up in years. I shall also call on her, as soon as possible.