

## ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF GENERAL STAND WATIE

Edward E. Dale

It was my privilege to publish in the last issue of this magazine some of the correspondence of the great Cherokee leader, General Stand Watie, during the period of the Civil War. It was hoped that these letters would help to give the reader a picture of conditions existing in the Indian Territory during that struggle and would also serve to show the feelings of some of the important leaders and the motives that led them to take the course which they pursued.

The following letters are here offered with the same purpose and may be regarded as merely supplementary to those already published. They all deal with the Civil War or the period immediately following, since Stand Watie's chief claim to distinction, except perhaps with his own people, rests upon his services as an officer of the Confederate army.

The same general plan has been used with regard to the preparation of these letters for publication as was employed with those published in the last issue. The original spelling, capitalization, and punctuation has been retained throughout so far as possible. In only a few cases where lack of punctuation in the original might render the meaning obscure, the editor has taken the liberty to insert a comma or period, or in one or two cases to replace a small letter with a capital.

Since space is limited the notes have purposely been made brief and reduced to the smallest possible number in order that more letters might be printed, than could be done were the notes made numerous and extensive. It has been felt that the letters are the important thing and it seems that after all the greater part of them require little explanation or comment. In consequence notes are given only when they seem absolutely essential and the reader is left at liberty to draw his own conclusions, from the documents themselves.

Written as they were during the crucial years of the Civil War by able Indian leaders who had no thought that their words might be read by later generations, these letters are real History in the truest sense of the word. They are not the story of the past, they are the past itself. In them we may read the hopes and fears and ambitions and disappointments of the

writers and it is confidently believed that their publication will throw some additional light upon the part taken by the Indian Territory in this greatest of American conflicts.

Edward Everett Dale.

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E. C. Boudinot<sup>1</sup>

to

Stand Watie

Honey Creek, Oct. 5, 1861.

Dear Uncle,

I went down to see you today but could not get across the river and came back after getting to the bank of the river. I can say by note, however what I wished to say in person. Just as I left Tahlequah Tom Taylor came to me and told me to tell you that he would start for your headquarters Monday next, and then told me that you had promised to have him appointed Lt. Col.<sup>2</sup> I hope there is some mistake about this for of all men I think him least deserving and least fitted for that post; he is as you know a timid flexible wavering unstable speculating politician always ready to profit by the labors of others and selfish to the last degree. You told me in Tahlequah if I would go with you you would do a good part by me. **I am willing and anxious to go with you** and as you have it in your power to do a good part by me, and thinking without vanity, that I deserve something from your hands I venture to ask from you either the Lt. Col. or the Major's place. I do not wish the post of Adjutant or any other than one of the two I have named. If any accident, which God forbid, should happen to you so that another would have to take your place, you will see the importance of having some one in respectable position to keep the power you now have from passing into unreliable hands.

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<sup>1</sup> Elias Cornelius Boudinot was Stand Watie's nephew. He was born in 1835, received a good education and became a lawyer and newspaper man. Though a Cherokee he lived for the greater part of his life in Arkansas and in Washington. He was a man of great ability and ambition and became very prominent in Cherokee affairs.

<sup>2</sup> When the Civil War broke out the Confederate States sent General Albert Pike to the Indian Territory to sign treaties of alliance with the various Indian tribes there. The Cherokee refused to sign and sought to maintain neutrality. Pike, therefore, went on to the other tribes with whom he made treaties, at the same time keeping up correspondence with that portion of the Cherokee tribe which favored the South. At the time this letter was written Pike had just returned to the Cherokee country and October 2nd to 7th, signed at Park Hill, treaties of alliance with the Osage, Seneca, Shawnee, Quapaw and Cherokee. These treaties may be found in Official Records of the Rebellion, Fourth Series, Vol. I, pp.635-687.

John Ross and you are rivals, he has appointed his nephew Lt. Col. intent on keeping a foothold in the military organization; perhaps my appointment would give dissatisfaction to some, a great many no doubt want, and some expect it, but you can't please all and I hope you will judge as your own feelings dictate. I have been a dray horse for Tom Taylor and others like him ever since I figured in the Nation. I have made sacrifices for them continually while they got all the pay. You have it in your power now to put me in a position where I can do honor to myself and to you. Will you not give it to me? Send your answer by the boy. I will go to Fayetteville and if your answer is favorable I will purchase some things you will need, and return next week.<sup>3</sup>

As ever

Your Nephew

Cornelius

P. S. Destroy this as soon as you have read it.

B.

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J. L. Martin

to

Stand Watie

Boggy, Sept. 22nd, 1863.

Dear Col.

I have just returned to this place. I have been looking out a place to move our people.<sup>4</sup> I have found a exelent place for them down on the Blue Creek about twenty miles from Nales Mill. And about ten miles above the mouth of Said Creek, there are plenty of water with good timber and summer and winter range large Boddies of good Cane, and to all appearances a healthy location. I shall commence moving our people about thursday. Genl. Steele promised me he would Furlough all the Soldiers who had families and friends to take care of to build

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<sup>3</sup> Apparently Boudinot was successful in his plea as he became a Major in Stand Watie's regiment. It seems that political life was more to his liking than military life, however, as he later was elected as Delegate to the Confederate Congress at Richmond. His chief service to the Cherokee, therefore, was in his work at the Confederate capital.

See O'Beirne, *The Indian Territory*, p. 115 for a brief sketch of Boudinot.

<sup>4</sup> The Cherokee and Creeks were both divided at the outbreak of the Civil War some favoring the North although both tribes had made treaties of alliance with the South. Late in 1861 and early in 1862 the loyal Indians were defeated in battle and driven north to Kansas where they spent the remainder of that winter and the following one in refugee camps. In the spring of 1863, however, the tide turned. Col. William A. Phillips was appointed to the com-

houses.<sup>5</sup> I was going up to the Regt. but am unwell. and Genl. Steele I learn is at Bonham and will pass this way So I have concluded to wait here till he comes along. I shall use every endeavor to carry out the Bill of Ordinance and make our people as comfortable as possible. This business is perplexing indeed owing to the way I have to draw my supply. I have to keep the people reconciled by a great many promises we only draw half Rations. I do hope that when we get settled down on the Blue Creek we will be Permitted to draw our Rations from Texas then we can give the people full Rations etc etc. I have understood that J. M. Bryan has got permission to Rase 100 (hundred men) as partisan rangers and he expects to get a good many men from the first and second Cherokee Regts this I believe to be true. Col. Adair and I talked about it and he and I concluded it would be a good policy to grant no Transfers. Bryan also said that this family party would have to be put down and that as for Jack Spears he was not fit to be Chief over a gang of Prairie Woolves all this came from men who wont lie men who heard him say it. Johnson Foreman is also cutting up so I learn but all this cutting up of Bryan's and Foremans will amount to nothing If we stick all together please tell Capt. Spears that I say that I am willing to serve under him as Chief. Altho Bryan says he aint fit to Rule over a gang of woolves. I had hoped that all partyism had ceased and still hope that it will be the case.<sup>6</sup> I have a letter for Capt. Spears it is from Nevarro Co. Texas. I expect it is from his wife I will send it up by hand don't you think it would be a good Idea to have an act passed in Council autherising a Committy to sit upon Clames to have all our losses Regestered, the time is growing long and a great many people are dying and getting killed so that we will not be able after while to get at the losses of the people correctly. If such should be the case that a Com-

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mand of Indian Territory and the Western District of Arkansas by the North. He invaded the Indian Territory and captured Fort Gibson in April. The result was that almost the entire Cherokee Nation fell into the hands of the North. Fort Smith was taken early in September and the Southern Indians now became refugees and remained so during the rest of the war. Some of them went to Texas, others to the Choctaw country. It was some of these non-combatants for whom Martin was seeking a place to live where they would be safe from the North.

<sup>5</sup> Indian Territory had been made a separate military district late in 1862 by the Confederacy and placed under the command of General William Steele. See Official Records, First Series Vol. XXII, Part I, pp. 28 and 36.

<sup>6</sup> As a matter of fact "partyism" never ceased in the Cherokee Nation. During the entire war and for long after, the adherents of Stand Watie were constantly quarrelling and bickering among themselves.

mitty is appointed I would suggest that Col. Adair be one of the Committy and if it would suit I should like to be one also I will talk to Col. Bell and give him my views more particular on the subject.

I have not heard one word from Boudenot and Bell I am looking for them every day.

I am anxious to go home to visit my family I had a letter from them all well at the time they wrote. Lucy has lost her little Boy he died 30 July—the health of the Refugees is improving.

Yours most Respectfully

J. L. Martin.

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Thomas F. Anderson

to

Mrs. Stand Watie

Camp near North Fork, Oct. 27th 1863.

Mrs. S. Watie.

Dear Aunt Sallie.<sup>7</sup> The Colonel started on a Scout Yesterday with a crowd of Cherokee, Creeks, Chickasaws and white vagabonds and Border Ruffians and with reasonable luck will return after having burnt up Gibson. Genl. Cooper had started sometime ago to Fort Smith to give the Feds a fight there and now, since Genl. Steele has got up with him, they will probably leave nothing of the enemy but a greasy spot. The Cherokees were sent up here to keep the dogs off and since we came here, a few stragglng Chickasaws and Creeks have got into our camp to get something to eat and the Colonel no doubt having in mind the Scripture injunction that man should eat his bread in the sweat of his face concluded that the best thing he could do with them was to take them along with him and make them sweat. We are looking for news from Cooper every hour.

You will receive by Mr. Matlock, a Bedstead, Table, some Chairs, 1 sack of Coffee, some soap, candles, pepper, Rice and

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<sup>7</sup> The writer of this letter was Stand Watie's Adjutant and close friend. He apparently had no Indian blood as his own family lived east of the Mississippi, yet he served during the entire war with the Cherokees. It seems that he was not related in any way to Mrs. Watie, the "Aunt Sallie" being merely a friendly use of the name by which she was often called by friends and neighbors. Anderson was a gallant soldier, of good education with an unlimited fund of wit and good humor which constantly overflows his letters. As we shall see he was later sent by Stand Watie on a mission to the east of the Mississippi to procure supplies and medicines.

Desiciated Mixed Vegetables.<sup>8</sup> This latter article is intended to season soup with though I believe that the article itself will make very good soup as the Boys say that they find it composed of hindlegs of bullfrogs, Snails, Screwworms, etc.

There is also an ammuination Box full of such delicacies & 1 Bot. Vinegar sent by Major Thompson to his wife to be left in your care until you have an opportunity of sending this to her.

The Col. & Saladin are both in good health.<sup>9</sup> Not so with me. I have been in bad health for sometime. The Doctor lays it to eating spoilt victuals which is very probable as we have now at our mess Four (4) Female Cooks and you know what they say too many of them will do. I would send names but as they have no doubt been duly reported before now, I forbear.

Capt. Mayes sends his respects, and I beg you to believe me, when I say it in all sincerity that nothing would give me more sincere pleasure, than the assurance of being held in esteem by you, not so much according to reports as according to my true deserts.

Please send my Sabre belt which I left at your house.

Should anything important occur, during the Colonel's absence I will send you intelligence forthwith.

Your Obdt. Servt.

Thos. F. Anderson.

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E. L. Compere <sup>10</sup>  
to  
Stand Watie

Copick County, Miss.  
Oct. 3rd 1864.

Gen Stand Watie,

Sir, We arrived two weeks ago in Miss. swamps and have not crossed the supplies yet. Everything would have been over and going west by this time, but for the vigilance of the enemy.

<sup>8</sup> No doubt a part of the spoil of one of Stand Watie's lucky captures. The "Cooper" here referred to was Douglas H. Cooper formerly Indian agent for the Choctaws and Chickasaws and later appointed to the command of the Southern district of Indian Territory. He was one of the best known Southern military leaders among the Indians.

<sup>9</sup> Saladin was the oldest son of General and Mrs. Watie. He was hardly more than a boy at this time but was a brave and able soldier.

<sup>10</sup> Compere was Chaplain of one of the Cherokee regiments and had been sent East to secure supplies. The letter needs no explanation if the reader will remember that the Mississippi had been opened throughout its course by the North as a result of the capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson more than a year before. The supplies referred to were probably manufactured goods of various kinds. There was plenty of food west of the Mississippi in some sections but other supplies were sometimes very scarce and in a great measure must come from east of the river.

He has been so active for a few days that we have been afraid to stir with the goods. Had the teams been in readiness by the appointed time everything would have been crossed without the least difficulty and before now would have been to their destination. The country was kept perfectly quiet up to the very river banks, till just about the time we arrived.

This detention and probable loss for the want of transportation leads me to suggest the importance of providing a **special train** for transportation of the goods which I may collect. Acting under orders as I am, approved by Gen. Smith it is certainly the duty of your Q. Master to provide this train.<sup>11</sup> Perhaps, however it might be well for the Cherokee people themselves to purchase a few wagons and teams, to be put in charge of Lt. McLendon for this purpose.

The Lt. has been permanently detailed to co-operate with me, and I request that you have such a Train provided for him or that you authorize him and furnish him funds to provide the Train himself. \* \* \* You see the importance of this matter.

Being sent off without any funds I borrowed from Mr. Wood the sum of \$700 seven hundred dollars old issue for incidental expenses. \* \* \* which I assured him you would see paid, and which Lt. McLendon will report to you as to how it is expended etc.

As soon as the supplies are over I will go immediately to Alabama and Georgia and hope it will not be long till I collect another lot. However the winter months being on us now very soon I cannot operate as successfully as I did the first time. Still I think there is no doubt but I will have on hand as large a lot as I now have, by the **time the Lt. can get back**. As soon then as he can get a Train I hope he will return.

I hope Adj. Anderson will communicate with me by mail on reception of this.<sup>12</sup> Send to care Rev. F. Courtney, Mt. Lebanon, La.—and he will forward to me.

Yrs. Truly,  
E. L. Compere  
Chap. 2nd Cher.

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<sup>11</sup> General E. Kirby Smith was in command of the Trans-Mississippi Division.

<sup>12</sup> Apparently it had already been decided to send Anderson to co-operate with Compere in gathering supplies. Medicines and cotton cards were particularly needed by the refugees, as many of them were sick and those who were well wished to employ as much time as possible in spinning and weaving both for themselves and for the soldiers in the field.

P. S. I have found it necessary to borrow besides the \$700.00 from Mr. Wood—\$300.00 old issue from the funds in my possession belonging to Missionaries. Please refund to Lt. McLendon \$200.00 new issue. He will turn over to the proper agents of the Board.<sup>13</sup>

Most of the funds will be consumed in ferriage over the Miss. River. What is left I will have in hand to commence my purchases with.

E. L. C.

Oct. 19th.

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Thomas F. Anderson

to

Stand Watie

Verandah Hotel

Shreveport Dec. 16th, 1864.

General.

I wanted to give you some news, before I left Shreveport, but as yet, I can only send you enclosed Gazette & Extra. Persons who ought to be able to form a tolerable correct opinion, seem to be hopeful and think, that even should Sherman succeed in reaching the Coast, he will do so in a very crippled condition.<sup>14</sup>

The Delegation had an interview Yesterday with Genl. Smith and got everthing arranged satisfactorily and without difficulty. They as well as myself are now waiting for necessary papers and as today is a day of general fasting and prayer all offices are closed and business suspended and we will have to wait patiently for what tomorrow may bring forth.<sup>15</sup>

I will see Col. Anderson to morrow and after seeing him I will complete my letter as I may then have something to write about.

Please take care of Jake for me and make him see to the old Horse good and not ride him unnecessarily as I want his back to heal up good.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Lieutenant McLendon had been detailed to aid Chaplain Compere in gathering and transporting supplies. Compere did not like him and this may have been one reason why Adjutant Anderson was sent.

<sup>14</sup> General Sherman occupied Savannah four days after this letter was written with his army in the best of condition, having suffered almost no loss in the long march from Atlanta.

<sup>15</sup> The fortunes of the Confederacy were growing desperate and this day had been set apart as one of fasting and prayer throughout the South by proclamation of President Davis.

<sup>16</sup> The "Jake" referred to was probably a negro slave of Anderson's.



Dec. 18th, 1864.

Genl. I got my papers last night, but too late to enable me to get off untill tomorrow morning as the office of the Depository was shut up. At the rate of \$35.00 a day for man & Horse, not including necessary bitters, it makes a mans pile grow beautifully less every day.<sup>17</sup>

I got only One Thousand Dollars here for myself & Walker as they are nearly out of money, but expect that I can, without much difficulty, get more on the other side of the River, whenever I may need it, otherwise I have everything satisfactory as I am not trammeled with orders or instructions and was given to understand that I had to paddle my own canoe.

I will do my best to return at the earliest date, though I fear that on my return, the River will be very full and this side perhaps overflowed.

One of the Chief reasons why our Division is not properly supplied, seems to be that necessary reports are not duly forthcoming. And as they can only have such reports to furnish them the necessary knowledge of us, it stands us in hand to make every officer come up to the mark in furnishing the same promptly. It is not right, that the men should suffer from the consequences of the neglect of duty of our officers.

The Wagons containing the supplies got together by Parson Compere, ought by this time to have reached their destination as they left here, sometime ago. Please secure Blank Books for our Brigade as there is a lot of them with these Wagons for Maj. Vore.

I would much desire to receive a letter from you. Please direct to me at Liberty Miss. care Landon L. Lea Esq. as he will know where to find me at all times. put 40 cents postage on it and send by Shreveport post office. And above all things, please see that the papers in my office are kept straight.

With my sincerest wishes for the prosperity of yourself & Family, believe me, Genl,

Your friend & Obt Servt

Thos. F. Anderson.  
Adj.

To Genl Stand Watie.

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<sup>17</sup> The thirty-five dollars a day was the cost of board and lodging for man and horse—in Confederate money of course.

Thomas F. Anderson

to

Stand Watie

Near Castor Post Office<sup>18</sup>

Caldwell Parish La Dec 26th 1864.

General,

After heading innumerable Bayous and going about 40 miles a day to make 10 miles actual headway, we have got to this point, where we have stopped for the day, in order to have a new axle tree put into a waggon belonging to the Signal Corps on Black River. This waggon has been of material service to us carrying our plunder and will go on to the camp of the Signal Corps below Trinity, Nearly every Bridge has been swept away and since leaving Shreveport, John and myself have got to be amphibious animals. Had it not been for a certain Bottle, containing a quantity of Texas Bois d'arc we would often have stuck in the mud and the prospect for a Christmas Eggnog this evening is very promising.

We aim to cross the Mississippi at Jacksons point below Natchez. I will endeavor to send you a letter after I am safe on the other side.

No news of any kind. Please write to me and direct to Liberty Miss. care of Landon L. Lea Esq. He will know my whereabouts and will forward to me.

I beg to be remembered to Your family and believe me,  
Genl,

Your most Obt Servt.

Brig. Genl.  
Stand Watie

Thos. J. Anderson.

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Chapey a ne Chis

to

Chief of the Creek Nation

Cherokee Town Feby. 21st 1865.<sup>19</sup>

To the Chief and Head men  
of the Creek Nation.

Friends & Brothers,

We have lately been visited by the Prairie Indians, Co-

<sup>18</sup> Anderson was now about a hundred miles east and a little south of Shreveport and about fifty miles from where he expected to cross the Mississippi south of Natchez.

<sup>19</sup> Several tribes of Plains Indians in the western part of the Indian Territory had made treaties of alliance with General Pike at the outbreak of the Civil War. They had done little to help the South, however, and as the for-

manches, Kiowa's and Arapahoes. As soon as they arrived at our Camp they requested our Agent to send an express to the Chiefs of the Confederate Nation and invite them to come to this place and meet them in Council, he did so, they waited several days but no one coming they have returned to their camps. They were anxious to see you all and expressed disappointment at your not coming to see them, We can assure you our Brothers of the Friendship of our Red Brothers of the Prairie. The Comanche Chiefs who visited us, says, that they made a Treaty with Genl. Pike on behalf of the South but still wished to be friendly with the North but early last spring they were called to a Council of the Northern Red men. In that Council Jesse Chisholm acted as Interpreter for the Comanches.<sup>20</sup> Several speeches were made some in favor of peace some for war on the South and Texas. The Chief of the Tahacarro made a strong war speech. The Comanche Chief spoke last. He told them that here in Council was assembled Creeks, Chicasaws, Cherokees, Seminoles and others who all had friends and relatives in the South and he thought that the men who made these speeches for war, had been drinking strong water and were drunk for he did not think that sober men would propose to war on their friends and brothers. In this Council Jesse Chisholm opposed making war and said all these people in the South were his friends so the Council broke up without concluding to make war on the South. Sometime after this Council was held The Comanches Kiowas and other Prairie Indians were called to another Council by some white men, Northern Officers, at which place they had a large amount of goods as presents to the Indians also a large number of guns and ammunition. The Officers told them that they would give them all these goods and guns if they would make war on the

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tunes of the Confederacy grew more and more desperate the Northern officers on the border sought to point out the situation to the Plains tribes and to detach them from their alliance with the Confederates. This letter from the second chief of the Comanches to the chief and head men of the Creeks, and which the latter then sent to Stand Watie, is interesting as showing the conditions existing among the wild Indians of western Oklahoma as the Civil War drew to a close.

<sup>20</sup> Jesse Chisholm was a Cherokee Indian trader and one of the best known characters of the Southwest. He was born in Tennessee in 1806, his father being a Scotchman and his mother a Cherokee. He came to the West when hardly more than a boy, married a Creek woman and engaged in trade with the western tribes. He was said to speak fourteen different Indian languages and in consequence was often called upon to act as interpreter. He accompanied Pike as guide when the latter came to Indian Territory in 1861 but later was to be found among the refugees of the North on the border of Kansas. Chisholm was very influential among the Plains Indians. He died in 1868. The Chisholm Trail was probably named for him.

South, he told them to kill all the men and boys and take the women and children prisoners and drive off all the cattle and horses and when they returned from their expedition they must give up the white women and girls but the Indian women should be theirs also all the mules and horses, the cattle they would buy from them. When the White Captain was done speaking the Commanche Chief spoke; he told them he had friends and brothers in the South and he would not make war on them, He said that he had made a Treaty with Pike and he held out one hand to the North and one to the South. He would not strike either unless he was struck first. The white Captain then told him if he would not help to fight the south he should not have the guns. The Commanche chief then said that he would do without the guns that he still had his bow and arrows and with them he could Kill buffaloe and live on the Prairie. It maybe proper here to say that Chisholm was Interpreter at this Council and advised the Indians not to listen to the Northern men's bad talk. The Council broke up; few goods and no guns were given to them; afterwards they refused to let the Indians trade with their suttlers this soon resulted in a fight since then several battles have been fought.

There is a perfect estrangement between these people and the North and they may now be relied on as true friends to the South. They are now encamped in the vicinity of the Antelope Hills some Fifty or Sixty miles north west of Fort Cobb.

My Friend and Brothers none of the other Chiefs are here but I send the words as they were told me by our wild Brothers.

Your Friend & Brother

Chapey a ne Chis

Second Chief Commanches.

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Tuckabatcho Micco

to  
Stand Watie

At Council on Washita River

Mch 11, 65

Genl.

The within is a letter from the 2nd Chief of the Commanches the purport of which shows their feeling towards us.

I wrote a letter a short time since to Col John Drew stating to him to forward the same to you after reading it—if you have received it you will please attend to the matter referred to in it.<sup>21</sup>

Your friend  
Tuckabatcho Micco  
Princ. Chief.

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Stand Watie  
to  
Tuckabatcho Micco  
Headquarters Indian Division  
Boggy Depot C. N.  
March 19th 1865.

Tuck,a.batch,ee. Micco  
Pl. Chief Creek Nation,  
Friend,

The letter from the 2nd Chief of the Commanchee Tribe of Indians dated Feb. 21st/65 with your note on the same, dated march 11th/65 has been received. In reply can assure you that it is a source of great pleasure and satisfaction to me, to hear of the friendly disposition, manifested by our red Brothers of the prairie and hope soon to see that perfect understanding and good will established among all the red brethren of the South West. The letter you mention of having written to Col. Jno. Drew, and requesting him to forward the same to me did not come to hand, but I received a letter a short time previous from the Confederate States Agent for the Reserve Indians, stating in substance that the Prairie Indians had come to their camps and expressed a wish for a meeting of Delegates from the Confederate Indian Nations. On receipt of said letter I immediately notified the General, commanding the Indian Territory, who is "Ex Officio," Superintendent of Indian Affairs and who thereupon appointed Maj Vore Q. M. of the Confederate Army to proceed to the place designated and have an interview with them but on his arrival there he found the Prairie Indians had already left, and nothing more can now be done only to wait until the 15th day of May the next day appointed according to the agreement, of the different delegates,

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<sup>21</sup> Colonel Drew was one of the best known Southern military leaders among the Cherokee. "Tuckabatcho Micco" was Principal Chief of the Creeks.

who were appointed last summer for that purpose,<sup>22</sup> when a General Council of All the Tribes of Indians, in friendly relations with the Southern Confederacy, will meet for the purpose of entering into a closer combination, and a more intimate acquaintance of the relations which shall hereafter govern their intercourse with each other and also to adopt a plan, for a united and more efficient and vigorous prosecution of the War, in which we are engaged, a unity of action, that when we strike it may be felt \* \* \* until we shall obtain peace, on terms which we can with honor, accept.

Respectfully,

Your friend

Stand Watie.

Pl. Chief.

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James L. Butler

to

Stand Watie

Mount Pleasant, Titus Co. Texas.

July 13th, 1865.

Brig. Genl. Stand Watie,

Dear Sir, I have the honor to inform you, That I am still in the land of the living, Since the Surrender of the C. S. Army my spirits have been so low that I did not wish to see my Old Officers Knowing that they were in low spirits. I do hope you will succeed in doing something for the Southern Cherokees for some of them are in great need and some who call themselves C. S. are not entitled to respect from any one as they have never done one thing only to slander the defenders of the Cher Nat. I have found out many of them since I left your Command, & will recollect them. I left your Command not wishing to implicate or bring my friends in to a difficulty that was my own and one I was able to settle myself. As I wrote to Bill Alberty that the Cherokees Knew that Jim Butler needed no one to help him to meet one man.

Should you succeed in getting our rights in the Cher. Nat. Please recollect me and family For I expect to live in the Cher.

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<sup>22</sup> Before that date came General Lee had surrendered and the war was virtually over.

Nat. yet. I think it will take about one year to run the Pins out and then Jim Butler can ride up to Maysville in safety and pay my respects to his old Commander.<sup>23</sup>

If you will speak to the bearer of this letter Hon. Henry Jones or Judge Grey, all of this county, no doubt they would furnish some Rations for the destitute Cherokees as they have influence in this county. I am here and would attend to it for the said destitute. They are abusing the kindness shown to the true Cherokees—Bill Alberty Jim McKay John Drew, Sam Taylor Clem Haney, such men drawing rations as destitute when the poor are suffering for something to eat.

Traitors Cowards Villains should be set opposite each of their names, I expect to live in Texas one year Then return to Grand River, Where I hope to enjoy your company.

Your true friend,  
James L. Butler.

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J. W. Washbourne  
to  
J. A. Scales

Little Rock, Arks.  
June 1st, 1866

Dear Scales:

Our matters are going smoothly in Washington. By the 10th and 14th I learned that Rollin Ridge had arrived.<sup>24</sup> He was immediately elected Chief of the Delegation. He is recognized by the Government as the loyal chief of the Ridge Party. Ross had relapsed and was expected to die tho he was alive the 22 ult.<sup>25</sup> The Ross delegation has been dismissed by the Commissioner because they would not agree to a division.

Ridge, Adair, Fields, and Boudinot, with Fuller and Wor-  
hee had an interview with the President. They are all in high  
spirits.

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<sup>23</sup> The "rights" referred to are the rights of the Southern Indians. The Pins were the Indians who had sided with the North. This letter illustrates very well the factional feeling and strife prevalent among the Cherokee at the close of the war. The Southern Cherokee were so torn by quarrels among themselves as to render any concerted action well-nigh impossible.

<sup>24</sup> John Rollin Ridge who had been in California since about 1849. He was a Cherokee poet, and literary man who had killed a member of the Ross party in the Cherokee country and fled from the Nation. He was a cousin of Stand Watie and a man of brilliance and excellent education.

<sup>25</sup> He died two months later or August 1st.

The President has ordered that a treaty be made with us for our pro rata share of the nation.<sup>26</sup> This is positive. On the 22d May they were drawing up the treaty. It is probably signed before this.

Ross is going to try to beat us in the Senate. His only show is what it was when you left. He will be beaten there. He is trying to make public sentiment through the N. Y. Tribune. Rollin has answered it in a scorching reply and went himself to see Greeley, of the Tribune, about its publication. Ross will be beaten there. His day is done. Ours is rising fast and bright. We will get all we asked for, with, perhaps, not so much money. I have been appointed to write to Gen. Watie to urge him at once to organize the Southern Cherokee Government in the Canadian District. In God's name be swift about it. Let Gen. Watie issue his proclamation in the Canadian District declaring the existence of the Southern Cherokee Nation, and calling upon the Southern Cherokees **all of them**, wherever they are, to hasten to the Canadian District and there hold election for members of Council, Committee, Judges and all the officers of the Government of the Southern Cherokees. Hurry this up. I write this to you, because I want you to know, to act, and because I want it got to Gen. Watie as soon as possible.

**Organize the Government as soon as it can be done. You will be protected against any interference.**

Send this letter to Gen. Watie as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

J. W. Washbourne.

Capt. J. A. Scales,  
Cherokee Delegate.

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J. W. Washbourne

to

J. A. Scales

Steamer "America" June 20, 1866.

Dear Scales,

Don't neglect to have the Southern Cherokee Government organized **Immediately**. Have it done by all means, even should

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<sup>26</sup> Two delegations of Cherokees had appeared in Washington, one representing the Northern or Ross faction and one representing the Southern or Stand Watie and the Ridge faction. The latter hoped to form a separate nation and to have a share of the Cherokee country set aside for them that they might be entirely separate from the Northern Cherokee. This letter would indicate that they had high hopes of the success of their plans. J. W. Washbourne was a son of Rev. Cephas Washbourne, Superintendent of Dwight Mission, and was in close touch with the delegation of the Southern Cherokees in Washington.



Gen. Watie's Proclamation not be able, in time, to collect a thousand voters. Organize it with a few hundred votes if you can't get more, or less, but organize, and afterward we will settle elections again.

We have won the day and delay **must not** be suffered to endanger our work.<sup>27</sup> Ross is appealing, lamely, I admit, but still appealing to the sympathies of the Radicals and the ignorant. He will **appeal also** to the sympathies of the ignorant Cherokees. He is an artful man and tho' he is personally powerless, he can work through agents, as you and I know to our cost. I entreat you as a representative of the Cherokee South to lay all this before Gen. Watie, our Chief. I write to you for that purpose. Don't let any delay avoidable hinder the organization. Preserve the copy of this and my other letters, as public record.

I shall return to the Rock soon.

Yours truly,  
Washbourne.

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Saladin Watie  
to  
Stand Watie

At Home. Near Breebs Town C. N.  
Novem. 16th 1867.

Dear, Father

I will start my waggons with the Boys to-morrow to assist you in moving.<sup>28</sup> I have just got home from the Falls, where I have been for two weeks hauling rock and boards, to finish my house. I also got in nearly all of Uncle Jims corn and some of my own.<sup>29</sup> I would have finished in one week more if I had

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<sup>27</sup> Some of the leaders of the Southern Cherokee worked desperately to bring about a division of the tribe but all to no purpose. In spite of their high hopes a treaty was at last made in which the Cherokee people were left as one nation.

<sup>28</sup> Saladin was the oldest son of Stand Watie. He had entered the army with his father when only fifteen years of age and had served with him throughout the war. He was a gallant soldier and when the war closed gave promise of becoming one of the foremost leaders among the Cherokees but died in 1868 when only twenty-one years of age. This letter is interesting as giving a picture of life in the Indian Territory soon after the close of the war. It shows that the Cherokee leaders took up civil life again gladly and set to work to rebuild their homes that had been destroyed, and to develop their almost ruined country.

<sup>29</sup> Col. J. M. Bell, Mrs. Stand Watie's brother.

not have had to send the waggon off—Since you left, I and Charles has not been idle, but a part of our work was of no benefit to us. We cut a large amt. of hay, and it was all burned up a few days ago.

I think we have got along very well; have had plenty to eat, except for the last week or so we have been out of meat, that was in my absence. I will go out and buy a good beef from some Choctaw tomorrow, and better than all mama has grown to be stout and healthy. She steps about like some young sixteen year old girl. All of our horses are in good fix, the mule, Peet, has been found. The cattle is doing very well so mama tells me. I have not seen them since I come back. I swaped my horse Bill off for a match to my Kitchen, horse, the finest looking span of horses in this country. Charles started to leave Ft. Smith with a load of hides and went by the Falls and I stoped him to finish the halling I would have had it done in case I had not sent the waggons off so soon. The wheel steers are very poor but in good working condition and very stout, for they have had plenty of corn to eat, all that is necessary is to see they are well fed, and they will pull all you can put on the waggon. If I was in your place I would much rather buy an ox team than any other kind, to bring the larger waggons you have, for oxen is ready sale, should you be compelled to sell them, and you can keep them with less expence than mules or horses. I think you ought to be able to buy steers at twenty dollars a head, young and broke cattle, and they will bring you thirty two  $\frac{1}{2}$  dollars here (Green Backs) as you can sell them for beef. I wish I was down to help you. I know I could be so much help in getting up your stock and bringing it out. I think you will bring a good lot of hogs. Make Watica see to the five hogs I got from Stewart.<sup>30</sup> If you should need me and Charles and the waggon send us word by Stand Benge, or Watica and we will go down and give you all the help we are able—Mama authorizes me to say that we can very well do without old Sall and Mrs. Squirrel. We are all anxious to see you all roll in. Don't let any one ride my mare and have good care taken of her for I hope she will be able to ride up to Grand River when you get back with her. Be sure and get my mule from Buf-

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<sup>30</sup> Watica was Stand Watie's youngest son. He was only a boy at this time. Later he was sent to school at Cane Hill, Arkansas but died within a few years.

fington and also have Watica and Stand Benge to get two Sows from him and half their increase for two years, but I will be satisfied if they only get the two which Boudinot let him have; I have given Boudinot credit for the mule and the two hogs, and if you don't attend to getting them for me I will be eighty dollars looser for Boudinot has given me hints enough if I did not get them I would not get anything. My house is getting going up very fast now. I think you will be after me for a trade when you see it and of course I will trade with you, for I would rather see you live in such a house than to do so my-self it would be more pleasure to me than anything in the world to see you and mama in a good comfortable house.

Nothing more just now make Uncle Charles write to me, for he can tell me about every thing and the place. You cant imagine how anxious we are to hear from you all. If Watica was not so much help in driving stock I would insist you would send him back to satisfy our thirst for news from the place.

From Your Son

Saladin Watie.

P. S.

It is with sorrow that I am called on to inform you of the death of our ill fated relative John R. Ridge he died at his place of residence in California some time in September last also the report of Lizzie's death has been confirmed. Foster Bell too came to an untimely end, as I suppose you have already herd, by some cowardly devil who waylaid and murdered him for what little money he was supposed to have had. It took place some where in the Choctaw Nation and it is reported here, that Johnson Thomas and Tuck Rider was the perpertrators of the bloody deed, if it proves to be the case it will be the duty of Uncle Jim to report it to the Principal Chief, and demand them. They are both Cherokees and I suppose it would come under the jurisdiction of our court. I do not think the relatives of the illfated youth, ought to stop until the murderers are caught and brought to justice, and to give such mean devils Justice, I dont know how it could well be done unles it was given to me to decide. And I am pretty certain should it be the case they would meet with their deserts—Write and send your letter to North Fork—Creek Nation.

From Your Son

Saladin Watie.