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STAND WATIE: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

(A book review by Donita Lucas Shields)

Several years ago Dr. B. Narasingarajan became involved with promoting American Indian studies where he taught American History at Bangalore University in India. As a result, he developed an intense desire for more knowledge about the War Between the States in Indian Territory, Oklahoma.

Since the Republic of India lacked resource materials for this era, Dr. Narasingarajan began compiling information directly from sources in Oklahoma that would be beneficial to Asian readers. His resulting *STAND WATIE: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY* can also be recommended for American readers who might desire a brief but accurate biographical sketch of Stand Watie and his outstanding military career. It is guaranteed to whet appetites for more extensive studies of Stand Watie and the Civil War in Indian Territory.

Stand Watie arrived in Indian Territory in April, 1837, with approximately 450 other Cherokees who had voluntarily sold their homelands in Georgia. These Indians and their families established new homes in Indian Territory more than a year before the U.S. government began forced Indian Removal in the Eastern states which resulted in the brutal Trail of Tears.

Stand Watie later became Principal Chief of the Cherokees, and in 1864 Confederate President Jefferson Davis promoted him to the rank of Brigadier General for his brave efforts and many

successes at the battlefield. At the close of the war Watie was the highest ranking non-White in both Confederate and Union troops. He and his soldiers who fought so valiantly for the Southern cause were the last to lay down their arms and admit defeat.

General Stand Watie's greatest battles described in Dr. Narasingarajan's book include: Wilson Creek in Southwestern Missouri and Pea Ridge and Poison Springs in Northwestern Arkansas as well as skirmishes at Cabin Creek and Pleasant Bluff in Indian Territory. He also provides coverage of numerous interesting raids along the Arkansas River near the Union's Fort Gibson.

Dr. Narasingarajan, in addition, presents his readers with several letters written by Stand Watie and his wife during 1863-1864. These messages portray Watie's kind and honorable character. They also discuss the hardships suffered by the poorly armed, hungry, and ragged Confederate soldiers and their families when they were forced from their homes to seek safer havens and food sources.

STAND WATIE: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY was published in 1984 by Mayflower Publications, International—Bangalore, India 560040. Price of the book is \$6.00

(DONITA LUCAS SHIELDS of Wagoner is formerly a staff writer and advertising representative for WESTVIEW.) *