
Biographical Note:
Raleigh Kobel, co-owner of the Wheeler Lumber Yard in Sallisaw, Oklahoma from 1902-1947, operated saw mills in southeastern Oklahoma. Sallisaw, originally a trading post and camp site (Salison -- "salt provision"), grew to an industrial center for strip coal mining. Kobel's wife, Corrie Wheeler Kobel, was the daughter of Captain John Wheeler, co-founder of Sallisaw, grand-nephew of Major Stand Watie, and a member of the staff of this officer who commanded the famed Cherokee Brigade through the Civil War.

About the collection:
The newspaper clippings in this collection include: a Fort Smith Herald account of an 1850 letter concerning 80,000 Indians in the territory and a message to Capt. Wheeler about return of U.S. troops; reminiscences about Major E. C. Boudinot, Albert Pike, Stand Watie, and the Battle of Pea Ridge; the obituary of John F. Wheeler (d. Feb., 1953), brother of Mrs. Kobel, with further details of the Wheeler family and their activities in Fort Smith and Sallisaw.