

Fae Rawlings
Disc 1 of 2
10/19/04

- 16:15** Lincoln did his Emancipation Proclamation which freed slaves in southern states, but he didn't free any of the ones in the northern states. It was looked at OK that's not fair and people went with the confederacy to retain their way of the life. Our thoughts you can live the way you want to live but let me live how I please. I'm not going to tell you how to live.
- 17:00** We're not saying you have to live as we do in the south. So what gives you the right to tell us we have to live the way you do in the north? Yes, there were a lot of people here that were for the north, that were union. They did not want to break up the union, and that's what the confederacy would have done if they won the war. It would be a separate country and they wanted to keep the whole United States together. So there were a lot of people here who felt for the north. We're in what was called a boarder state.
- 39:18** When you come in to Franklin it lies on the east side of the North Fork Mountain. There was a much gorilla warfare in Pendleton County, as I said before Franklin changed hands eight or nine times. Well I was probably ten times. At one point which was early on in the war Freemont,
- 40:00** General Freemont occupied Franklin with his forces. He headquartered were in the McCoy's house, located on south Main Street, in Franklin right across from the courthouse. Most people living in Franklin were of confederate sympathy. So that's why they used the term occupied. If you look in some of the records at the court house there are several places in the old record books like the old marriage books, death books, birth registration books, in several of them I've read myself,
- 41:00** the record was on a torn page. Part of this record was destroyed by the occupying forces, and they called it the public enemy. And they meant Union Forces destroyed all the papers, and heaven only knows what else they destroyed. Freemont's forces were close to 30,000 men. He was one of the groups that were blinkers. They called them the Dutch Brigade, he was here with 6,000 men. General Shank combined forces. He had several groups, and his forces combined were 20,000 men in Franklin.
- 42:00** Where did they sleep? Where did they put up their tents? The hillsides were filled with soldiers. There was, and they had horses. Where did they stake horses? Their artillery was outside of Franklin up on the hill, where today there are the satellite dishes for the cable company. The Union Forces had their artillery. They had their parrot guns up there to guard the valley on south of Franklin. They stayed wherever they could find a place to stay. Churches were used as hospitals after the fights. There was a battle in McDowell, VA. That
- 43:00** Twenty years before the Civil War it was Pendleton County. In 1847 it became Highland County. So the people there had close ties to up here. And there was a large battle there. When Freemont was here in Franklin, with his 30,000 troops, Stonewall Jackson was 10 miles south of town

- 44:00** headquartered in the Henry Simmons house. Stonewall was gonna come on up through the South Branch. And it was stated of him later on that in the evenings Stonewall, he was a strange silent man, when he said something it had to be of importance. Jackson wouldn't just sit around and gab. He used to go out in the yard and stand with his hands folded behind him contemplating. He would turn and look towards the direction of Franklin and you could just imagine him
- 45:00** planning the battle of Franklin. *But before, before he came this way the battle of McDowell broke out. So he had to go there. There were forces, of course Fremont's men from Franklin went there and Stonewalls men went there. There were forces from Pa units, New York units, North Carolina units and a lot of other groups there at McDowell that fought.*
- 46:00** Stonewall was here before the battle of McDowell. So they all went down to the Battle of McDowell. It was quite a spirited fight and the confederate troops chased the union troops up the south branch valley back to Franklin. Chased Fremont's men back to Franklin. They were right on their heels all the way up the south branch valley and when the battle itself was going on in McDowell. You could hear their artillery from Franklin.
- 47:00** You could be in Franklin, people in Franklin could hear the artillery goin' off. And they of course had to retreat from McDowell clear back to Franklin and Fremont went on northward later. Stonewall went back to McDowell and across to Staunton, then up was his big fight through the Shenandoah Valley. But he would have done that through here most likely if the battle of McDowell hadn't broke out. So, in a way that battle saved a lot of south branch valley because they would have destroyed Franklin.
- 48:00**