

A.M. Campbell on the Battle of Washita

In this item, A. M. Campbell relates his experiences regarding the Delawares, the Southern Cheyennes, Black Kettle, and the Battle of Washita. Serving as a ferry boat operator in Lawrence, Kansas Territory during the early 1850s, Campbell explains that he was "well acquainted" with Black Kettle and the members of his band. As the item indicates, Black Kettle was killed in 1868 during the Battle of the Washita in Oklahoma.

Creator: Campbell, A.M.

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*Ind.
Cheyennes.*

A. M. Campbell of Salina visited the Historical room Oct. 10, 1905. In the early 50's he ran the ferry boat at Lawrence for the Delawares, and was well acquainted with Sarcxie and other members of the tribe. He was with Wm. A. Phillips one of the first settlers of Salina, and has made that his home ever since. ~~In~~ During the first years of his western settlement he was a trader among the Indians, mostly among the Southern Cheyennes, taking his goods to their camps. One of their favorite summer haunts was along the branches of the Beaver in the northwestern counties of Kansas. It was a well watered stream, and was always covered with the remains of their camps. I mentioned the shooting of the Cheyenne party ^{on the same} by Lieut. Hen-eley in 1875, and asked if the Cheyennes were in the habit of making pits in which to fight. He said that the only other instance of pits used by the tribe that had come under his notice was ~~at~~ at the Chivington massacre. That band had made pits, whether as a protection against the weather he did not know, but as the Southern Cheyennes were in the habit of moving south into Texas during the cold weather, and this band of Black Kettle's were stationed by the Government, and in not their usual quarters, it may be that they had dug the pits for comfort, and not to fight from.

He said that he was well acquainted with Black Kettle and members of his band, and traveled in his company on the plains, ~~He~~ ~~said~~ that the Cheyenne massacre at Sand Creek was a dastardly affair, that he was given an account of it by Thom. Norman, a U.S. Scout who took part in it, and was inclined to apologise, tho was unable to give any reason adequate for a slaughter. The massacre occurred Nov. 29, 1864. Black Kettle was with the Cheyennes on the Washita, in winter camp, when he was killed in the Custer fight, which was not directed against him or his band, but as they were present, he was accidentally killed. The Battle of the Washita was fought Nov. 27, 1868.