

Traveling Trunk: *I Heard a Coyote Howl*

GLOSSARY

by Dr. David Clapsaddle

Big Guns: artillery pieces

Bluecoats: United States Army soldiers, so called for the color of their uniforms

Box Elder: the name of a tree species on the plains; Cheyenne children were often given names related to the natural world, many times the same name of older family members

Buckskin: tanned deerskin

Colonel Custer: Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer, Field Commander of the 7th U.S. Cavalry

Dry River: the Cheyenne name for Sand Creek in eastern Colorado Territory where the Cheyenne/Arapaho village was devastated in November, 1864 by Colorado volunteers under the command of Colonel John M. Chivington

General Hancock: Major General Westfield Scott Hancock

Grandfather: grandfathers in the extended Cheyenne family were accorded great respect and often tutored boys in the ways of a warrior

Guerrier: Edmund Guerrier, a half breed whose father was an Indian trader and whose mother was Cheyenne

Julia Bent: the half breed daughter of William Bent (of Bent's Fort) and Yellow Woman, a Cheyenne

Killed first buffalo: before being recognized as a warrior, a Cheyenne boy had to kill a buffalo

Lakota: one major branch of the Sioux

Lodge: a common name used by the whites with reference to a tipi

Medicine: the whites' translation of the Cheyenne word for power

Medicine Bag: a small bag containing amulets the Cheyenne thought to be possessed with special powers (similar to a good luck charm)

Moon: corresponding to month

Our People: the Cheyenne were so called by the Sioux meaning “he who speaks with a strange tongue”; but the tribe called themselves *Tsis tsis tas*, meaning “our people”

Parfleche: a French word with reference to untanned buffalo hide used to make shields; the tough hide was resistant to arrows (*parry* meaning deflect and *fleche* meaning arrow); the same material was used to make containers which were then called Indian Suitcases

Red Arm Creek: the Cheyenne designation for the Pawnee River resulting from the death of a Comanche chief on the Pawnee in 1847 who was named Red Shirt

Road to Denver: what is now called the Smoky Hill Trail

Sinew: a strong thread made from the tendon of a buffalo or other animal

The time the stars fell from the sky: on November 13, 1833: on this date the sky was ablaze with meteorite showers; witnessed around the world, the heavenly display produced terror among the Cheyenne

Travois: two poles tied parallel together to be pulled behind a pony; the end poles were dragged across the ground; it was loaded with possessions and even small children when moving to a new location

Wyncoop: Edward Wyncoop, the Indian agent for the Cheyenne and Arapaho in residence at Fort Larned