



GEORGE BENT AND THE

SAND CREEK MASSACRE

"Chivington attacked the village early in morning. I had not got out of bed when I heard soldiers were coming. When I went out of the lodge I seen soldiers charging towards the village. One company went around east side of the camp and one company west side."

George Bent, March 15, 1905

"About 53 men were killed and 110 women and children killed, 163 in all killed. Lots of men, women and children were wounded... The village was on north side of Sand Creek, about 146 lodges of Cheyennes, 7 lodges of Arapahoes under Chief Left Hand."

George Bent, April 30, 1913



George Bent and wife Magpie, circa 1870. Born in 1841, George was a son of William Bent and Owl Woman, a Cheyenne. Magpie, along with Bent's other wives bore him a large family. George Bent passed away in Colony, Oklahoma, 1918.

"I saw an article in St. Louis paper last year that some major that was at Sand Creek claims that I was killed at Sand Creek and that he had my scalp in his possession. Of course it was not so."

George Bent, February 23, 1889



George Bent sits left, researcher John White sits far right, storyteller Big Knee sits middle. White travelled to Indian Territory in 1905 to gather 'old time' Cheyenne tales for ethnologist George Bird Grinnell. Bent's correspondence with Grinnell and others became the basis for many books about the Cheyenne.

"[at Sand Creek] I myself was badly wounded in the hip. As there were no bones broke I was able to walk. After going up the Sand Creek few miles Indians began to meet us with some ponies....I had to walk little ways before I could get on the horse. My hip was very swollen sore from cold..."

George Bent

"Mr. Bent was sick practically one week, having taken down with double-pneumonia ...We certainly miss him at the Agency...he has served the Government for so many years... I am certain that his place cannot be filled by another since he had such a complete knowledge of the family history of virtually all of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians."

Indian Superintendent, June 13, 1918