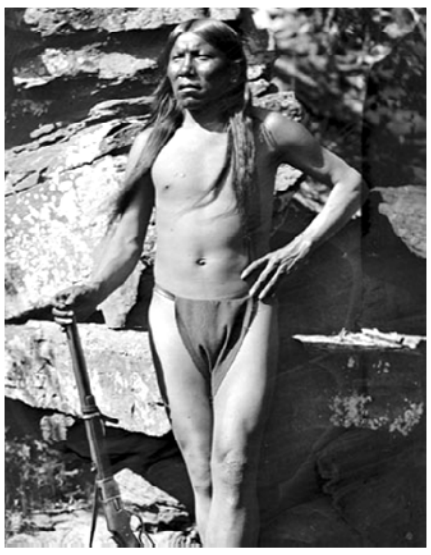
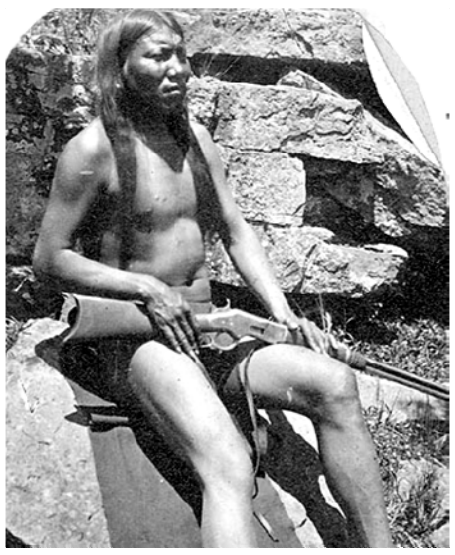
LITTLE BEAR AND THE SAND CREEK MASSACRE

Little Bear pictured at right in 1875, eleven years after the Sand Creek Massacre; photographed near Okmulgee, Indian Territory by John K. Hillers.





The Sand Creek story of Little Bear is a unique firsthand account of the massacre. His story was translated and penned circa 1906 by George Bent. The account was then mailed to author/historian George Hyde.

"I seen lots of women and children that had been killed. Some were not dead yet… After the fight was over I seen 2 or 3 soldiers together standing over the dead I suppose scalping them. "

LITTLE BEAR

In the years after Sand Creek, Little Bear had several wives – Gum Woman; Wild Cat Woman; and Fish Woman and Blind Woman, who were sisters. Little Bear was 75 years old at the time of his death January 20, 1917.

Little Bear had one child live into adulthood, a son named White Face Bull. White Face Bull passed away in 1948; he was survived by children Minnie Red Hat, May Hail, and Eddie Bull.

A great grandson and a great great grandson of Little Bear have been keepers of the Cheyenne Medicine Arrows.

"I looked towards Fort Lyon Trail south of the village when I seen long black line. Then I knew soldiers were coming to attack the village."

Little Bear, 1906

Bear Tongue and Yellow Woman, the parents of Little Bear survived the Sand Creek Massacre. Few details are known about Little Bear's grandparents - other than their names, old Chief White Face Bull Sr. and Dog Woman.

"When I got to the bank of the creek I seen Big Head, Crow Neck, Cut Lip Bear, and Smoker, standing behind the bank so I joined them… We were west end of the village …Big Head and his party …ran west. I turned and went north as I seen big crowd [of Cheyenne] *going that way. About 20 soldiers followed me. Big Head and his party were all killed over the hill …"*

Little Bear, 1906

Chief Little Bear seated, in his seventies, near Kingfisher, Oklahoma with Chiefs Soft Belly and Burnt All Over.

Little Bear, above, photographed during a visit to Washington D.C. in 1891; and his son Alex White Face Bull, left, photographed in 1912 near Cantonment Agency, Oklahoma

"I found my war bonnet, shield and my quiver full of arrows…*While I was putting on my war bonnet and shield, bullets were hitting all around me and bullets were hitting the lodges like hard storm…* On way up [Sand Creek] the feathers of my war bonnet were shot away and my shield was shot several times, but I did not get hit."

Little Bear, 1906