

First to arrive were companies of the 1st Regiment. Soon, volleys were fired and artillery hurried forward. In the camp, people scurried towards the banks of Sand Creek. Others, unencumbered, made a dash for horses and weapons. Soon, an American flag was raised by Chief Black Kettle. Another Chief, White Antelope sang his journey song – *“Only the Earth and Mountains Live Forever”* – knowing that death was only seconds away

The 3rd Regiment came forward; dismounting, mounting, and crisscrossing the creek. By late morning, companies split, groups of volunteers on their own. Warriors defended their people’s retreat. Determined, fighting for their lives, Cheyenne and Arapaho proved formidable foes.

Several hundred of the people survived. For five miles or more the Cheyenne and Arapaho beat a bloody, torturous path up Sand Creek. Along the way, many dug hiding pits in the valley’s soft sand – here they were bombarded with gunfire and howitzer shells. Sand Creek, the scene of suffering and sacrifice became sacred ground. November 29, 1864 would never be forgotten.

By nightfall, ammunition had run low for the volunteers. Tired and nervous, hundreds of young soldiers returned to the abandoned village. They would spend the next two nights here, sleep interrupted by anxiety and exhaustion. While over a dozen paid the ultimate price, many more carried the wounds of Sand Creek for a lifetime. November 29, 1864 would never be forgotten.



Standing Water
DOD 11/29/1864



Private Joseph Aldrich
DOD 11/29/1864