

Sand Creek Massacre

Eugene Blackbear (From Oklahoma Historical Society transcripts by Mary Jane Warde)

AUDIO TRANSCRIPT:

"...they don't come out and tell the way things are, or the way they supposed to be. Like them two, you call them 'battle'; that wasn't our battle-we were attacked, we were massacred, and that's no battle. Women, old folks, and kids, babies, they can't fight no soldiers, they can't give 'em a good show, they can't give 'em a good fight. Now why do they keep calling it 'battle'? Battle of Sand Creek..Battle of Washita. That was no battle that was a massacre. This is what I cant understand. Why do they keep calling it battle? Same way with what they done with Little Big Horn. That was a battle; he went in and attacked but they were ready for him. Then they say 'massacre', Custer got 'massacred', they say that. It's the other way around. Now they're hollering. That's what they did to our people here, but they just did call it a 'battle'. Me, I don't understand it that way."

FULL TRANSCRIPT:

"...my grandfather, my great-grandfather, his name was Strong Bow, Strong Bow was his name and he had a son named Black Bear. They're the ones that got away from that battle at Sand Creek. They was camping maybe way on the west side when Chivington they attacked. He heard 'em early in the morning- some people they get up early - so my great-grandfather he was one of them he got up early. He heard 'em, people coming, soldiers, so he woke up his wife. And Black Bear, old man Black Bear was a little boy then, not very old. Boy, they took off. Cold, mid-February. So they left, they run, just took a few things, and they run, run for their lives; they just took little bit of this , little bit of that- they couldn't take very much. So they run- my father was telling us the story- they went quite a ways way over there somewhere. Then they sit down to rest and the clouds they kinda broke I guess. Then the sun started shining, and my great-grandmother was sitting there facing east; she had that little boy on her back, and my grandfather said that he was digging in that dirt, he had a stick and was digging. They wanted to put my grandfather in there, cover him up and then run on; they thought he was dead. So anyways when the sun hit him, I guess he kinda moved. So at the movement old lady say, "Hey, he moved". She got him off her back, put him on her lap; he went this way- he wanted bread. "Hey, got bread, old lady?" "Yeah, I got piece over here." Boy, they give him bread, boy he was eating bread. That's what saved his life. If They went on ahead and buried him alive I wouldn't be here today, and that's the story my father tells me. My great-grandfather got away before the battle took place.".....

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