

## Attack at the Washita

Samuel Hart (From Oklahoma Historical Society transcripts by Mary Jane Warde)

### AUDIO TRANSCRIPT:

One of the stories, the main story that I really liked is that during the battle of the Washita while everybody was being shot down or chased down, this one young lady started running for her life and I can visualize her standing there in terror, and her parents or grandparents saying, "Flee for your life. Run." At that time we were always told when we were growing up, you didn't do anything unless you were told to do it. I can just imagine her standing there terrorized, not knowing what to do or where to go until she was told to flee for her life. She started running and she saw that she could not make it to a high embankment or maybe to the river to a hiding place, and she came upon a dog den. Back in those days the Cheyennes would dig out maybe a hole in the ground and cover that hole with branches and leaves and dirt, or maybe it was a tree fall and they just make a shelter in that tree fall. That is where she hid; she crawled into the den. She was very quiet and she could hear the hoof beats going by where she was hiding and after it was all over she emerged from her hiding place, and I was told, "This is where you are from," so we are the descendants of that young lady who ran for her life and hid."

### FULL TRANSCRIPT:

"Some of the things I did hear about the battle of the Washita or Sand Creek, my grandmother was the historian. She knew everybody, she knew all relationships, she knew all the stories. It seemed like she knew all the nighttime stories too. She was always very reluctant to tell about Sand Creek or the Washita. Her main emphasis was that things like that should not be discussed. She said they were terrible times for the tribe; they were times of terror, times of remorse, and those things she always emphasized are better forgotten. One of the stories, the main story that I really liked is that during the battle of the Washita while everybody was being shot down or chased down, this one young lady started running for her life and I can visualize her standing there in terror, and her parents or grandparents saying, "Flee for your life. Run." At that time we were always told when we were growing up, you didn't do anything unless you were told to do it. I can just imagine her standing there terrorized, not knowing what to do or where to go until she was told to flee for her life. She started running and she saw that she could not make it to a high embankment or maybe to the river to a hiding place, and she came upon a dog den. Back in those days the Cheyennes would dig out maybe a hole in the ground and cover that hole with branches and leaves and dirt, or maybe it was a tree fall and they just make a shelter in that tree fall. That is where she hid; she crawled into the den. She was very quiet and she could hear the hoof beats going by where she was hiding and after it was all over she emerged from her hiding

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