



Chief "Little Robe"

Háahketa hóema

And the Sand Creek Massacre



Chief Little Robe, a son of old Little Robe. Old Little Robe may have been killed at Sand Creek –identification of the dead was difficult and often erroneous or exaggerated. The younger Little Robe assumed a prominent role in the aftermath of Sand Creek, signing treaties at both the Little Arkansas in 1865 and Medicine Lodge in 1867. Eventually Little Robe was regarded as a leader of the “peace faction” among the Southern Cheyenne.

This photo of the younger Little Robe was taken in June, 1871 in New York while the Chief was with a delegation visiting the east coast. Little Robe returned east in again in 1873. He met with President Ulysses Grant on both occasions.

Little Robe the younger and his wives – Big Chief Woman, Broken Jar, and Bear Woman had a large and prominent Cheyenne family. Their last surviving child, a daughter named Pipe Woman (He'óonévá'e) passed away June 23, 1933. Other daughters of Little Robe included Coon Woman and Crooked Neck. A son of Little Robe, White Bird lived until 1917.

Big Shield, Little Robe's sister, was the mother of Old Coffee Woman, Bald Eagle, Sprinkle Horse Woman, and Measure Woman Standing Bird.

Grandchildren of Little Robe and Big Shield included Harvey Long Sioux, Imogene White Bird, Agnes Fat Wolf, George Bald Eagle, Susie Reynolds, Mary Goodsell, and Cheyenne Chief Guy Hicks, among many others.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF COLORADO,
In the field, on Big Bend of Sandy Creek, Col. Ter.,

November 29, 1864

Messrs. BEYERS and DAILEY,

Editors News, Denver, Colo. Ter.:

SIRS: We...surprised, at break of day, one of the most powerful villages of the Cheyenne nation...killing the celebrated chiefs One Eye, White Antelope, Knock Knee, Black Kettle, and Little Robe...destroying all their lodges and equipage, making almost an annihilation of the entire tribe...”

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. CHIVINGTON,

Col. Comd'g Colorado Expedition against Indians on Plains.

ARTICLE VI

“...the United States...Government being desirous to make some suitable reparation for the injuries then done [November 29, 1864], will grant three hundred and twenty acres of land by patent to each of the following-named chiefs of said bands, viz: Moke-ta-ve-to, or Black Kettle; Oh-tah-ha-ne-so-weel, or Seven Bulls; Alik-ke-home-ma, or Little Robe; Moke-tah-vo-ve-hoe, or Black White Man... The United States will also pay in United States securities, animals, goods, provisions, or such other useful articles...to the respective wants and conditions of the persons named in the schedule hereto annexed, they being present and members of the bands who suffered at Sand Creek...”

Treaty of the Little Arkansas, 1865

“...I went to different lodges to shake hands with Black Kettle, Little Robe, Bear Tongue, Red Moon and lot of my friends that I was with at battle of Sand Creek that were going back [south of the Arkansas river] with Black Kettle. Good many of this party were afoot as their horses were all captured by Chivington...”

George Bent, January 12, 1906



Chief Little Robe photographed in New York City, June of 1871. A Dog Soldier warrior and later Council Chief, Little Robe played an important role in early reservation affairs. The Chief passed away in Indian Territory, 1886.