



## YELLOW SHIELD/YELLOW FINGERNAILS



# THE SAND CREEK MASSACRE

“My mother (Julia Chicken Hawk) used to tell me the story of Sand Creek. She said her grandmother (Wooly Dog – daughter of Yellow Shield/Yellow Fingernails and Tying Up Baby) was at Sand Creek and told stories to my mother about how they ran for their lives.”

“When they scalped him (Yellow Shield/Yellow Fingernails), they shot him too but he wasn’t dead. His forehead skin fell over his eyes so he pretended he was dead and they left him. He wanted to say goodbye to his grandchildren but they were too afraid to look at him so he held his forehead up so he could say goodbye and then he died. This was at Sand Creek.”

[Wooly Dog died December 17, 1941 – one of the last surviving eyewitness’ to the Sand Creek Massacre.]

Sand Creek Massacre Descendant, Clinton, OK. 1999



Standing and husband Henry Roman Nose. Standing was a daughter of Yellow Shield and Medicine Road Woman. The couple had two children, Amanda and John Roman Nose.

Standing passed away October 10, 1946, 91 years old.

[A granddaughter of Standing] “...remembers hearing her tell of her experiences at the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864. Only a girl then, she was rescued by one of her uncles who swept her up on his horse as he rode away from the attackers after some of her family members had been killed.”

Watonga, Oklahoma a Centennial History

“The Tall Bird family [said] their grandmother (old Chief Woman – daughter of Yellow Shield) was a little girl at the time and her mother tried to run with her but she couldn’t keep up. So she tried to carry her but the mother gave out as they were running up Sand Creek she just scooped out the sand and put her little girl in there and told her not to move and that she’d be back for her. She covered her with sand and brush and leaves and ran off. When she came back two days later the little girl was still alive. The little girl suffered through that cold, with no cover, no food or water.”

[Chief Woman passed away May 5, 1923 – one of her children William Tall Bird lived until 1970]

Yellow Shield was a son of old Chief Bear Feathers, aka Ugly Face or Old Bark. According to a 1909 affidavit of George Bent and Osage, Cheyenne Indians, the brothers and sisters of Yellow Shield were Bad Face, young Chief Woman, Rivers, Bear Above and Walking Woman (old Mrs. Whirlwind). Walking Woman was the last surviving sibling of Yellow Shield when she passed away in Oklahoma, 1907.



Luke Bearshield, grandson of Yellow Shield and son of Chief Woman; photographed 1879 at Carlisle, PA. Luke Bearshield passed away June, 1900. He was survived by two sons, Alfred and Leonard/Willie Bearshield.

“Two Thighs (Two Buttes), the aged chief of the Southern Kit Foxes, fell singing his death song. So did Yellow Shield, head chief of the Bowstrings. They had been chosen warrior-society chiefs to die. This bitter day at Sand Creek they fulfilled their obligations.”

Powell, *People of the Sacred Mountain*, Vol. I