



# Col. John Chivington & Sand Creek a Historical Mock Trial

---

## Colonel John M. Chivington

### Biographical Information:

- rank: colonel  
unit: commander of the Military District of Colorado  
superior: General Curtis & Governor Evans  
posting: Denver City, Colorado Terr.
- John Milton Chivington was a ex-Methodist minister.
- In 1863, he was the commander of a unit of Colorado cavalry that cut-off and repulsed a Confederate advance on Colorado from Texas.

### Historical Deposition:

- Following is a collection of excerpts from reports and testimony given by Col. Chivington in November and December, 1864.

"We killed chiefs Black Kettle, White Antelope, and Little Robe, and between four and five hundred other Indians; captured between four and five hundred ponies and mules . . . We found a white man's scalp, not more than three days old, in a lodge."

"Between five and six hundred Indians were left dead upon the filed . . . I was shown the scalp of a white man, found in one of the lodges, which could not have taken more than two or three days previous."

"There was an unusual number of males among [the Indians at Sand Creek], for the reason that the war chiefs of both nations were assembled there evidently for some special purpose . . . [Trenches] were found at various points extending along the banks

continued

of the creek for several miles from the camp; there were marks of the pick and shovel used in excavating them . . . From the best information I could obtain, I judge there were five hundred or six hundred Indians killed . . ."

"I myself passed over some portions of the field after the fight, and I saw but one woman who had been killed, and one who had hanged herself; I saw no dead children. From all I could learn, I arrived at the conclusion that but few women or children had been slain."

"On my arrival at Fort Lyon, in all my conversations with Major Anthony commanding the post, and Major Colley, Indian agent, I heard nothing of this recent statement that the Indians were under the protection of the [U.S.] government."

### Testimony Summary:

- You saw a white man's scalp which had been found in the Indian camp.
- It is your opinion that between 500 and 600 Indians were killed in the engagement.
- You believe that there were a large number of males in the Indians camp.
- You saw rifle pits in the Indian camp.
- You saw only one Indian female who had been killed.
- You saw no dead Indian children.