

119-120      The camp crier announced one morning that the chase would occur that day and for the riders to catch and mount their best running horses and come together. They did so and we then separated into groups of from ten to fifteen men. A hilly broken country surrounded the level plain where the buffaloes had been driven. The different groups of horsemen were disposed in circles about the buffaloes at a distance from each other that could be covered easily by a swift running horse. My group moved forward in a circle, shooting as they rode toward the buffaloes. The group placed me in a position where I could kill the first buffalo.

When we reached the next group of riders, we took our stand there while the second group rode and shot until they reached the third group, who maneuvered in the same way, each group keeping close watch to prevent the buffaloes from breaking out and gaining the adjacent hills. The plan was consistently carried out with the riders constantly closing in on the buffaloes until every one remaining on the plain was killed. Occasionally a few buffaloes escaped to the hills, but of the entire vast herd probably not more than 300 or 400 escaped the circle of riders.

As soon as the chase ended the Indian women came and helped with the skinning and butchering, which was not finished until past midnight. The bright moonlight made it possible to work until late in the night.

I directed the police to count the hides the next morning, and they reported there were 3,420 of them. So far as I know, not one buffalo was killed whose meat was wasted.