

ROMAN NOSE (Woo-U-Kini)

Roman Nose was never a chief, because he was such a fighter that he felt he lacked the gentleness and social qualities required of ^{a man for} that office. But he was a great leader of warriors, and by the time of our Civil War had already made himself famous in combats with other tribes. The Cheyennes were friendly with the whites at that time, and it was not until 1864, when the Colorado Volunteers attacked Black Kettle's camp on Sand Creek and killed a great many Indians, that Roman Nose and his people became really hostile. This massacre on Sand Creek inflamed the Cheyennes with hatred of the whites, and for the next few years Roman Nose was a leader in conflicts with the troops and settlers. In 1865 he led the Cheyenne forces, which worked with Sitting Bull and other Sioux chiefs, to combat Generals Connor, Nelson and Cole. On Powder River they brought the campaign to a disastrous close, driving the troops from the Indian country.

In '66 he helped harass the troops and civilians on the trails to Montana, and when General Hancock marched into the Indian country Roman Nose was one of the chiefs who met him. Hancock insisted on camping near the Indian village, which ^{all} frightened/the women and children into running away in the snow. The men followed, and after that wrecked a train and looted it. The Indian agent, Wynkoop, had led Hancock to the Cheyenne camp. At the treaty of Medicine Lodge that summer, Roman Nose went gunning for Wynkoop in the Indian camp. But Wynkoop was warned and had a fast horse. He got away.

Roman Nose was engaged in several skirmishes that year, but attended the treaty at Fort Laramie in '68. That fall, however, Colonel Forsyth and his scouts rode out from Fort Wallace looking for Indians. As it happened, the Indians saw them first and attacked. When the troops had reached the Arikaree River, the white men took refuge on a little sandy island in the shallow ~~was~~ stream. The