

Kiowa

Kiowa (principal people, their own name).

A tribe at one time residing about the Upper Yellowstone and Missouri, but better known as centering about the upper Arkansas and Canadian in Colorado and Oklahoma and constituting, so far as present knowledge goes, a distinct linguistic stock. They are noticed in Spanish records as early at least as 1732. Their oldest tradition, which agrees with the concurrent testimony of the Shoshoni and Arapaho, locates them about the junction of Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin forks at the extreme head of Missouri River, in the neighborhood of the present Virginia City, Montana. They afterward moved down from the mountains and formed an alliance with the Crows, with whom they have since continued on friendly terms. From here they drifted southward along the base of the mountains, driven by the Cheyenne and Arapaho with whom they finally made peace about 1840, after which they commonly acted in concert with the latter tribes. The Sioux claim to have driven them out of the Black Hills and in 1805 they were reported by Lewis and Clark as living on the North Platte. According to the Kiowa account, when they first reached Arkansas River they found their passage opposed by the Comanches, who claimed all the country to the south. A war followed but peace was finally concluded when the Kiowa crossed over to the south side of the Arkansas and formed a confederation with the Comanche which continues to the present day. In connection with the Comanche, they carried on a constant war upon the frontier settlements of Mexico and Texas, extending their incursions as far south at least as Durango. Among all the prairie tribes they were noted as the most predatory and bloodthirsty and have probably killed more white men in proportion to their numbers than any of the others. They made their first treaty with the Government in 1837 and were put on their present reservation jointly with the Comanche and Kiowa-Apache in 1868. Their last outbreak was in 1874-75 in connection with the Comanche, Kiowa, Apache, and Cheyenne. While probably never very numerous, they have been greatly reduced by war and disease. Their last terrible blow came in the spring of 1892 when measles and fever destroyed more than three hundred of the