

1864, made several raids after these Indians. On the 29th of November, 1864, Col. Chivington, with three companies of the First Colorado and a detachment of the Third Colorado under command of Col. George L. Shoup, attacked Black Kettle, who with White Antelope, One Eyed George Bent, and other bands, were encamped on Sand creek, 110 miles south-southeast of Denver. He attacked them just at daylight after a forty mile ride in the dark by the troops. The Indians were surprised, and according to the very best estimate 500 or 600 were killed, men, women and children. The fight was made in the village and the troops had no time to pick for men and save the squaws. The half-breed Indian chief, One Eyed George Bent, a son of Col. Bent, an educated rascal, was found among the dead. This was the first great punishment the Indians of the plains had received since Harney's fight in Ash Hollow.

On the 7th of January following, the military and stage station at Julesburg, at the old California crossing on the south bank of the Platte, was attacked by the Indians. Capt. Nicholas J. O'Brien, familiarly known among the white men as "Nick O'Brien," and by the Indians as O-zak-e-tunk-ka, was in command of the troops. The Indians, Sioux and Cheyennes, to the number of about 1,000, ran the stage into the station, killing one man and one horse. Capt. O'Brien left a sergeant and twelve men in the fort to handle the two pieces of artillery, and mounting the rest, thirty-seven men and one officer besides himself, went to meet the savages. As the men neared the top of the hill they saw the large force opposed to them, but never flinched. The Indians charged on them with great fury and killed fourteen of the soldiers. Capt. O'Brien ordered his force to fall back, which they did in good order, leaving their dead comrades to fall into the hands of the Indians. The red skins endeavored to cut them off from the fort, and came very near doing it. The men finally gained the fort and held the enemy at bay with artillery, two mountain howitzers. Night put an end to the conflict. The Indians withdrew during the night, and in the morning no one was in sight. The soldiers went out to find the bodies of their dead comrades; found them, but nearly all were beyond recognition, stripped of clothing, horribly mutilated, their fingers, ears, and toes cut off, their mouths filled with powder and ignited, and every conceivable indignity committed on their persons. The Indians, as they afterwards admitted, lost over sixty warriors. None were found on the field, as they always carry away their dead with them.

In the winter of 1865, some time in December, I think, Brevet Brigadier General Tom Moonlight, now governor of Wyoming, was placed in command of the district of Colorado and, until in May, had his headquarters at Denver. Some time during this month he made his headquarters at Laramie. In March the district of the plains was created and Gen. P. E. Conner was ordered from his command at Salt Lake to take command of the new district with headquarters first at Fort Kearney, then at Denver, and in June at Julesburg. At Laramie Gen. Moonlight organized an expedition to punish these marauding Indians. Before starting out on his expedition he learned from some of the trappers that two white women were with Two Face's band near the south base of the Black Hills. Through interpreters, trappers and Ogallala Sioux Communication was opened up with these Indians, and for a large number of ponies, blankets, and a quantity of sugar, etc., two white women were purchased from the Indians and brought into Laramie. Two Face and two of his best warriors came in with the prisoners to surrender them. The armistice was violated -- Two Face and his warriors arrested and hanged in chains about two miles north of the fort on the bluff, where their bodies were allowed to hang until the crows carried away all the flesh from their bones. One of these women, Mrs. Eubank, was the wife and mother of the massacred party at Eubank's ranch, near Spring ranch, on the Little Blue in Nebraska, now one of the best settled portions of the state. I had known Mrs.