

The Sign for their tribe was Cutthroat or Beheader.

William P. Clark, author of The Indian Sign Language, declares: "In mental, moral, and physical qualities, I consider the Sioux a little lower, but still nearly equal to the Cheyennes, and the Teton are the superior branch of the family." ←

~~In the days of the Indian Wars,~~ they numbered perhaps 15,000 souls.

The Cheyenne, a much smaller tribe of perhaps 3500 persons, were known to others as the Cut Arms or Striped Arrows, from the gesture used to indicate them in the sign language. Their friends and close allies were the Arapaho and Sioux. After 1840 they were on good terms with the Iowa and Comanche. They fought the whites, ~~in 1864 and after,~~ ^{in the 60s and after,} and the Utes always, and willingly attacked the enemies of their friends the Sioux.

"The Cheyenne are distinguished for their desperate courage and pride of bearing and are pre-eminently warriors among people whose trade is war."*

*James Mooney, The Ghost Dance Religion, page.1027.

Clark sums up their characteristics: "As a tribe, they have ^{been} broken and scattered, but in their wild and savage way they fought well for their country, and their history...has been written in blood. The men of the Cheyenne Indians rank as high in the scale of honesty, energy and tenacity of purpose as those of any other tribe ...and in physique and intellect, they are superior to those of most tribes and the equal of any. Under the most demoralizing and trying circumstances, they have preserved in a remarkable degree that part of their moral code which relates to chastity, and public sentiment has been so strong in them in regard to this matter that they have been, and are still, noted among all the tribes which surround them for the virtue of their women."

For every Cheyenne killed by the troops, the United States Government lost 25 soldiers and spent a million dollars.