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One of the biggest Indian clean-ups within my personal knowledge occurred in the fall of 1868. I was then carrying the mail from Fort Hall across the big bend of Milk river. Some four hundred Gros Ventres were camped on Beaver creek, about midway between Fort Hall and Milk river. The trail I traveled took me within about nine miles of this village, and as the country was very level I could see their tipis as I passed along. One afternoon in the year above mentioned I noticed a good deal of smoke and some fire in the vicinity of the Indian village, and could plainly see Indians riding around in that vicinity on horseback.

The next morning at Milk river I was informed that the Blackfeet had made a raid on the Gros Ventre's village and killed every man, woman and child they could lay hands on, about four hundred in number, some of whom were confined to their lodges with small-pox. Only two of the Gros Ventres managed to escape from the doomed village, and these had gone to the big bend of Milk river with the news of the massacre. The Blackfeet, after having killed all those found in the village, rifled the lodges, drove off the ponies and set fire to the tipis.

On one of my trips some time after the massacre, I rode over to the scene of this killing and found the half-decomposed remains of the dead scattered about in every direction. So far as I know, none of the bodies ever received burial, but were left to be preyed upon by the wolves and other wild animals. In all my experience I do not know of another instance where so large an Indian village was ever attacked by an enemy and so completely wiped off the face of the earth.

28
not captured yet

Must have been captured in 1869

Sept 1