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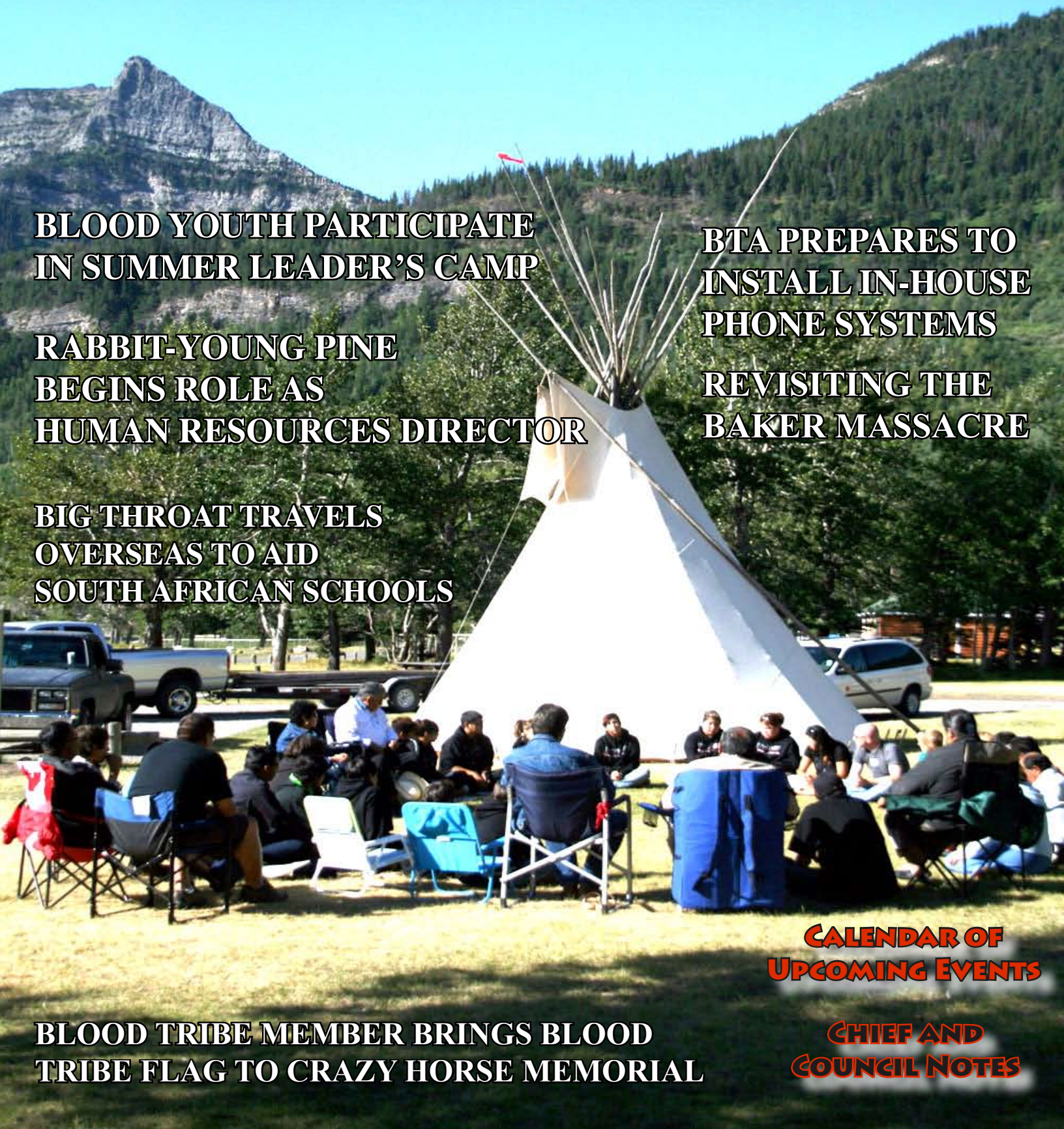
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BLOOD YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER LEADER'S CAMP



A group shot of the participants and organizers of the Camp

A group of twenty Blood youth joined to listen to professionals who shared their careers and current occupations in the hopes of nurturing positive attitudes and behaviors in their lives. Pam Heavy Head, Canadian Red Cross outreach coordinator, said the camp entitled “Doctors, Lawyers, Indian Chiefs” brought together a number of professionals from the Blood Tribe, and other professionals associated with the Tribe, to Waterton Lakes National Park for a four-day camp-out, to share stories of their struggles and eventual achievement of educational pursuits. “When I was young, there was a supervisor who would say, ‘Children, we are going to play now,’ and she would get out the skipping ropes and the rhyme was doctors-lawyers-Indian chiefs, rich man-poor man-beggar man-thief, and as I grew older, I really resented that,” she explained in recalling her childhood memories. “And, it occurred to me that that was the rhyme we were going to use because, today, at the Blood Tribe,

we have our own doctors, lawyers, chiefs and Kainai Chieftains. I thought, here, we have a pool of people who are leaders in their own way—they wouldn’t be where they are if they didn’t want to be what they are today.” Heavy Head said her idea began to move forward as she began to identify the number of professionals in these three targeted careers. “I think some of it was luck, some of it was the good faith that they (presenters) would help us out if they see the youth and the needs of the children of the Blood Tribe,” she said. “To our good fortune, we had all of our presenters agree (to participate).”

Among the presenters who participated in the four-day camp were: Lethbridge Mayor Bob Tarleck, Judge Jim Langston, Honorary Kainai Chieftain, Chief Charles Weasel Head, former Chief and Health department CEO Chris Shade, Dr. Esther Tailfeathers, Dr. Sue Christensen, Cheryl Many Chiefs, Carly Fox, lawyers, Maurice Law Firm, Gilbert Eagle Bear Jr. Lawyer, North & Co., Gerry Conaty, Curator, Glenbow Museum & Honorary Kainai Chieftain, Wilton Goodstriker, Charlie Fox and Roger Hunt, Blood elders.

Each of the presenters shared their individual journey with the youth and described their eventual successes as professionals. Dr. Esther Tailfeathers said her inspiration to enter the medical profession came from her late brother Dr. Darcy Tailfeathers. “He kept saying to me, ‘You know, you should try it.’ He knew I wanted to get into Nursing but I was too scared,” she said. “I thought about it for about a year and then thought ‘Yes,’ I’m going back, but by then I was 29-years-old and I decided, okay, I’m going to try pre-



Dr. Esther Tailfeathers

med.” Dr. Tailfeathers wondered how the younger students could party late and still have good grades, but it was dedication and commitment to complete her goal that pushed her onward. “In the end, I did pass my pre-med courses.”

Dr. Tailfeathers said an oriental student from Hong Kong named Elvis helped her understand graphs and she helped him better grasp the English language. “Don’t be afraid to ask for help,” she said. “There are some things you have to do that you don’t often want to do, but you find out there’s a rainbow at the other end.” The students listened to the professionals throughout the four days and participated in a number of activities including horseback riding, swimming and climbing the Bear’s Hump Mountain.

Heavy Head said the leader’s camp is an on-going event and they are currently planning for next year’s activities.



Martin Heavy Head, Chief Charles Weasel Head and Pam Heavy Head

RABBIT-YOUNG PINE BEGINS ROLE AS HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR



Katie Rabbit - Young Pine, the new Blood Tribe Human Resource Department Director

The Blood Tribe Administration recently employed Katie Rabbit-Young Pine in her role as the Human Resources Director. Rabbit-Young Pine brings extensive experience and knowledge as her employment history indicates a number of occupations which have helped groom her professional skills and abilities. Rabbit-Young Pine was hired on September 8, 2008, and is looking forward to familiarizing herself with her role and responsibilities in assuming her duties. She brings with her an extensive employment history in correspondence with her Management degree. "I began my career at the Lethbridge Community College in Students Services and then moved to the Career Development office in Lethbridge," she says. "It just seemed that everything was flowing for me because I really enjoyed the fact that I'm working with people." Rabbit-Young Pine then applied for and was the successful applicant for the Post Secondary Coordinator position with Red Crow Community College in 1990. "This was where I was able to bring together the two different work experiences that I had

previously achieved," she explains in recognizing her employment both on-and-off the reserve. "I learned how to use different approaches instead of just saying 'No,' I thought we have to look at some alternatives for our people. Helping people to achieve their goals was really rewarding for me."

After ten years employed with the Blood Tribe's post-secondary institution, Rabbit-Young Pine then decided to further develop her skills in the field of human resources. She returned to the University of Lethbridge and attained her degree in Management. Upon completion of her studies, Rabbit-Young Pine felt it was time for her to take her career in an occupation suited to her education and experience. "It just so happened, the Blood Tribe Health department was hiring a Human Resource Director and I applied and got the position," she says. "And that's when it all started." She says her learned skills were fully utilized as she was involved in negotiating, policy development, conflict resolutions and internal and external management. "One thing I learned immediately

was, no matter who the individual is, concentrate on the issue. That way, you are guaranteed to treat everyone fair and equal all the way across the board," she says.

From 2005 to 2008, Rabbit-Young Pine then accepted employment with Treaty Seven Management Corporation. For one year, she was the Co-Management Coordinator and then moved into the role as the Chief Executive Officer.

In her current role as the Blood Tribe Human Resource Director, she says although she is still in orientation to her duties, she understands the expectations and recognizes the concepts of her responsibilities. "I use those human resource skills that I have learned in coming into this job," she explains in preparing for her role. "In human resources, I like to deal with the issue rather than focusing on who the individual is. That way, everyone will be treated fairly. There will be changes because I would like to present some new ideas and approaches. You have to follow policy. That's what I would like to stress here. The policies come from our leadership, let us respect them." 3

BTA PREPARES TO INSTALL IN-HOUSE PHONE SYSTEMS



It's been busy for Frank and associates who are installing the new telephone system

After months of preparing the telephone lines and accompanying technical equipment, the Blood Tribe Administration is preparing to up-grade its old telephone equipment with phones better adapted to suit Tribal needs. Steve Frank, BTA Network Administrator, has been busy the past two years in ironing out all the details in bringing this project to completion.

“The Blood Tribe has been approached by many outside companies offering to up-grade our telephone services,” he says. “The reason we selected the one we decided to go with was because they offered to help us get to a point where the Tribe will be self-sufficient and we wouldn’t be looking to outside resources for telephone support.”

Frank says the provider of the services is MTS Allstream from Calgary who has been working with Frank to up-dating Tribal equipment. “They were very persistent in trying to get this project going with us. Their sales representative, Doug Williams, really believed in their equipment.”

Another of the motivating factors involved in up-grading the telephone systems was the cost-savings this system would eventually provide for the Tribe. “During the time we were making the presentations and demon-

strations, we also investigated what the Tribe is currently paying for telephone service,” he says. “And, the Stand Off area alone (BTA, Health Centre, Entities) was in the tens of thousands dollars a month.”

Preparing for the new telephone project included installing a fiber-optic line and performing the necessary background work such as installing phone lines, security and access measures and supports required to operate the telephone systems. “The departments and entities are no longer using wireless equipment. We are all on a dedicated fiber-optic line that belongs to the Tribe, it doesn’t belong to an outside agency,” he says. “So, through this line, we will be able to supply Internet, e-mail, accounting services and now, telephone services to our departments.”

The new telephones will offer more features and capabilities for users and employees. Frank says they will begin training employees on the details and operation of the telephones and adds the employees will be very pleased with the new system. “We are going to have on-going training and information sessions, and Sarah Sweetgrass, who has been invaluable, will provide training and be responsible for the billing of services to the departments,” he described, and added. “I want to help bring the



Tribe up-to-date with the outside world and to keep us on pace with the outside world. It’s going to help the Tribe in its business dealings in providing for more effective communications.”

Frank says the improvements to the communication systems will create more opportunities for the Blood Tribe in the future. “In the long-run, the Tribe is going to save hundreds-of-thousands of dollars a year and now we can use those dollars to further develop our own technology,” he commented. “I would like to see the Tribe offering Internet services to the people and ensure the Tribe is supplying these services. It’s a booming industry and the benefits will be for the Tribe. We’re trying to make the Tribe self-sufficient (in this area),” he says. “But for now, the telephone project is to help the employee do their jobs better and to make technology more accessible to them.”



Doug Williams

BIG THROAT TRAVELS OVERSEAS TO AID SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS



Sanitation units are being assembled in a partnership between Blood Tribe, Canada and South Africa

A member of the Blood Tribe recently travelled to Africa to assist a local community in improving their health efforts. Henry Big Throat, vice-president of Student Services, Red Crow College, participated in a humanitarian effort to improve the quality of health for residents of a local community. The activity was made possible through a partnership with the University of Lethbridge, the Lethbridge Community College, the Government of Canada (CIDA) and various South African organizations.

“Our main project was to help in the area of sanitation,” explained Big Throat. “In South Africa, the schools have no type of sanitation. They are very poor, so therefore, when they needed help in their schools, their latrines, we helped build in those areas.”

Big Throat was accompanied on his trip by post-secondary students Scott Scout and Germaine Wells who coordinated and assisted in building the latrine structures from the ground up. “We helped the local community there. The mothers and the fathers were the ones working there for their own children,” he said. “They volunteered to help us in this area.” Big Throat said the latrines were built from the ground up and were pieced together by brick. The latrines were

built with a projected lifespan of 35 years. “We built three of them (latrines). There are four holes, two in each section, and after seven years, they are capped and then the toilet is moved into the other hole,” he said in explaining what will occur after the latrine is nearing its capacity. “After seven years, it decomposes back into the ground and the toilet is then transferred back. This will happen for the next 35 years.”

The humanitarian effort was in response to the unsanitary health conditions experienced by the local children and people living in the area. “Prior to this project, the people had no facilities to use,” said Big Throat. “There are many other diseases like ringworms and other unhealthy diseases because there is no sanitation or water. “Big Throat said water in South Africa is in short supply. “South Africa is not like here in Canada where we have underground water, and where we can drill for water,” he said. “In South Africa, they have no underground water. They have to pipe water from the different tribunes to the cities, and then from the cities to the communities.” The group from the Blood Tribe spent 30 days in nearby Mthatha which is approximately two-hours from East London near the East Cape. The group had an opportunity

to travel around South Africa to visit game reserves and other destinations on the weekends. Big Throat said some of the South African culture is very similar to the Blood culture. “They are very traditional and down-to-earth people. They share the same type of culture we have. It’s very similar,” he described. “We shared some words and the meanings are nearly the same. This is where all human beings evolved from, and I kind of believe that after I seen them, after I heard them, after I seen their culture and the language similarities, it was amazing to see that.”

Big Throat said plans are underway to travel to Guatemala in the near future to assist in other humanitarian projects.



Henry Big Throat

Blood Tribe member brings Blood Tribe flag to Crazy Horse Memorial



One man from the Blood Tribe made a personal journey to the South Dakota territory to present the Blood Tribe flag at the Crazy Horse Memorial to display our presence among the many Turtle Island First Nations. Gary "Twister" Tailfeathers said he travelled to the United States to various sites held sacred by such Tribes as the Souix, Cheyenne, Oglala, Crow and other First Nations as part of a coup in keeping time-honored traditions alive.

During a trip to the Crazy Horse Memorial in 2004, Tailfeathers says he visited an area within the complex and saw the many United States Tribal flags adorning the walls. He felt compelled to take the initiative to bring the Blood flag there to be displayed as a sign of unity with Tribes south of the border. "At the Crazy Horse Memorial, there's a section they call the cultural centre, and in that building and throughout the other buildings, they had flags hanging from all these different tribes, and I imagine mostly from the United States, and I don't know if there are any from Canada," he said. "At that time, I thought it would be really neat if our Blood Tribe flag could be hanging there. So, I decided that some day, it would be really something nice to do to bring our

flag down there."

Tailfeather's journey into his own self-awareness and acknowledgment of his culture stemmed from his initial visits to the various sacred sites throughout Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas. "In 2004, I heard about the Crazy Horse Memorial, and I decided to take a trip down there," he remembered. "I was really impressed with the whole place. We went to Wounded Knee, the Devil's Tower and the Little Big Horn Memorial, and it felt really spiritual. For some reason, at the Crazy Horse Memorial, I got inspired to start dancing with a headdress and buckskin, and with my grandchildren. I had made a vow to start dancing." Tailfeathers said several months passed and he then received his first headdress

in a transfer performed by his uncle Pete Standing Alone. "It was within two months, so everything really happened fast for me," he said. "I got someone to make my moccasins for me, I got gloves, a headdress, a pouch, and a lady made a vest for me. That year, in 2004, I started dancing"

While on his journey, Tailfeathers recalled an incident which was resolved when an accusation directed toward him ended with an apology and gifts." The man gave me his Buck knife and other gifts in apologizing to me," he said. "Today, we don't go on raids or steal horses, I guess it's the modern world and we have to do different things toward your accomplishments. I asked my uncle Pete (Standing Alone) about this and he said one of the highest honors back then was to take a man's weapon, even to steal it or take it in battle. When I asked him how many coup-points it was, he shook his head and said, 'It's gotta be a lot.'"

Tailfeathers said he plans to return to the Crazy Horse Memorial as part of his on-going journey to view the Blood Tribe flag as it rests near the many other proud First Nations of North America.



Tailfeathers and Doreen Williams-Freeman proudly display the Blood Tribe Flag

Revisiting the Baker Massacre



Mountain Chief

The Baker Massacre occurred in the context of massive white American westward expansion. Relations between the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Blackfoot, Blood, and Peigan tribes) and whites had been largely hostile for years. Amid this tension, the event which touched off the massacre involved a young Peigan Blackfoot named Owl Child, who in 1867 stole some horses from Malcolm Clarke, a white trader, as payment for his own horses, whose loss he blamed on Clarke. [1] Clarke and his son tracked Owl Child down and beat him in front of a group of Blackfeet. In response, on August 17, 1869, Owl Child and a group of other Peigan warriors shot and killed Clarke, and seriously wounded his son. The killing of Malcolm Clarke inflamed the white American public, and there were widespread calls for revenge. The United States army demanded of the Blackfoot Confederacy that Owl Child be killed and his body delivered within two weeks; Owl Child, meanwhile, had fled and joined the band of Mountain Chief, the head chief of the Peigans.[3] When the two week deadline had passed, General Philip Sheridan sent out a band of cavalry (the Second US Regiment), led by Major Eugene Baker, to track down and punish the offending party. He ordered:

If the lives and property of the citizens of Montana can best be protected by striking

Mountain Chief's band, I want them struck. Tell Baker to strike them hard. Sheridan's plan was a dawn attack on a village in heavy snow, when most of the Indians would be sleeping or huddling inside to keep warm (a strategy he had employed before, when George Custer attacked Black Kettle's band of Cheyennes in the Battle of Washita River). Strengthening his cavalry units with two infantry groups from Fort Shaw near Great Falls, Baker led his troops out into sub-zero winter weather and headed north in search of Mountain Chief's band. Soldiers later reported that Baker drank a great deal throughout the march. On January 22, Baker discovered an Indian village along the Marias River

On January 23, 1870, Baker's party received a scouting report that the group of Peigans, led by Mountain Chief, was camped along the Marias River. They attacked the site at Willow Rounds, but Mountain Chief had been warned and left the area, so Baker's men instead ended up attacking the camp of Chief Heavy Runner, who had enjoyed friendly relations with the white men. Although Baker's scouts had reportedly warned him that he was about to attack the wrong camp, he proceeded anyway against the protests of those scouts. On the night of January 23, they came upon an Indian village in the dark and surrounded it. As the darkness faded, Baker's scout, Joe Kipp, recognized that the painted designs on the buffalo-skin lodges were those of a peaceful band of Blackfeet led by Heavy Runner. Kipp rushed to tell Baker that they had the wrong Indians, but Baker reportedly replied, "That makes no difference, one band or another of them; they are all Peigans [Blackfeet] and we will attack them." Baker then ordered a sergeant to shoot Kipp if he tried to warn the sleeping camp of Blackfeet and gave the command to attack.

Baker's soldiers began blindly firing into the village, catching the peaceful Indians utterly unaware and defenseless. The camp was, in reality, a smallpox camp headed by Heavy Runner who went out to meet the men and was shot down. The troops massacred nearly everyone in it, which resulted, from official records, in 173 dead and 20 wounded, nearly all of whom were women and children or men too ill to defend themselves. As the

men of the camp were mostly out hunting, the raid was a massacre of mostly women and children with 140 women and children captured, while only one cavalryman died, after falling off his horse and breaking his leg. Winter lodges were falling into flames and burning small children and the oldest ones who were unable to even begin escaping the pre-dawn ambush of bullets. Knocking down lodges with frightened survivors inside, the soldiers set them on fire, burnt some of the Blackfeet alive, and then burned the band's meager supplies of food for the winter. Many survivors hid in the freezing waters of the Marias River. The prisoners were chased onto the prairie and left there. Knocking down lodges with frightened survivors inside, the soldiers set them on fire, burnt some of the Blackfeet alive, and then burned the band's meager winter supplies. Baker initially captured about 140 women and children as prisoners to take back to Fort Ellis, but when he discovered many were ill with smallpox, he abandoned them to face the deadly winter without food or shelter. Mountain Chief's band escaped to Canada. Descendants of the victims retell the event through oral histories.

Many blamed and still blame Major Eugene M. Baker, a known alcoholic, for the massacre and failure to capture Mountain Chief's men, and, of course, for the massacre that he failed to report on paper. However, in the subsequent controversy, General Sheridan expressed his confidence in Baker's leadership, and managed to prevent an official investigation into the incident. Conflict between the settlers and the Blackfeet declined after this incident. The Blackfeet Nation, already partially badly weakened by the conquering strategy of smallpox in their lodges, did not have the numbers or support this late in the Indian Wars to respond.



Leaning against the porch railing in the center of photograph stands Colonel Baker.

