



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sand Creek Massacre  
National Historic Site

P.O. Box 249  
Eads, Colorado 81036  
[www.nps.gov/sand](http://www.nps.gov/sand)

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## Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site

Attn: News Desk

Dear Editor or News Program Director:

During 2014, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site (NHS) will commemorate 150 years since the Sand Creek Massacre. In addition to other efforts in education, outreach, and community participation, monthly news releases to local, state, and national newspapers will promote learning and research into the Sand Creek Massacre. Each news release will help focus on the history of 1864 and how events combined to lead to this tragedy.

At dawn on November 29, 1864, U.S. Army Cavalry (Colorado Volunteers) attacked a peaceful village of Cheyenne and Arapaho on the Big Sandy. Despite the raised American and white flags, the chiefs and headmen within the camp could not stop soldiers from opening fire on everyone within the village. By the end of the day, around two hundred Cheyenne and Arapaho lay dead. Following congressional and military investigations, the federal government acknowledged its responsibility for the massacre less than a year later at the 1865 Treaty of the Little Arkansas and condemned those responsible.

The National Park Service (NPS) collaborates with the Northern Cheyenne, Northern Arapaho, and Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the massacre landscape. Sand Creek Massacre NHS was dedicated and opened to the public in 2007, allowing visitors to understand and learn from our past.

Please help inform your readers and viewers about this milestone year by publishing the news releases, writing and reporting on the history of the Sand Creek Massacre, or by requesting more information from NPS interpretive staff. If you are interested in doing a story or an interview on the Sand Creek Massacre, please contact Eric Sainio at [eric\\_sainio@nps.gov](mailto:eric_sainio@nps.gov) or at (719) 729-3003. Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,  
Eric Sainio, Park Guide  
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 249  
Eads, CO 81036  
(719) 729-3003 ext. 223

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## Sand Creek Massacre News Release

January 15, 2014  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Sainio, 719-729-3003

### Sand Creek Massacre 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News Releases

Condemned by Congress, the Sand Creek Massacre marked the plains with blood, sparking warfare from Texas to the Canadian border. On the morning of November 29, 1864, U.S. Army Volunteers attacked a peaceful camp of Cheyenne and Arapaho, mutilated the dead, and looted the village. The massacre left behind about two hundred Cheyenne and Arapaho dead and many more wounded, with women and children comprising two-thirds of the casualties.

As the Congressional Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War noted in 1865, the “truth is that [Chivington] surprised and murdered, in cold blood, the unsuspecting men, women, and children on Sand creek [sic], who had every reason to believe they were under the protection of the United States authorities, and then returned to Denver and boasted of the brave deeds he and the men under his command had performed.”

With the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this tragedy approaching in November of 2014, the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site is releasing a monthly series of news stories to illustrate the people, events, and consequences of the massacre. In collaboration with the Northern Arapaho, Northern Cheyenne, and Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the National Park Service manages the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site for all Americans to understand and learn from our past.

To learn more about the Sand Creek Massacre, please visit [www.nps.gov/sand](http://www.nps.gov/sand) or contact the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site outside of Eads, Colorado at (719) 438-5916.

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Suggested caption for attached photo:

33-Star American Flag, white flag, and lodgepoles at Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site.  
Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service.

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