
READING LIST

THE ROAD TO SAND CREEK

Books on Sand Creek run from trash to excellent - most leaning toward "poor." If you believe this was a battle, you will enjoy *I Stand by Sand Creek* and *Battle at Sand Creek*. If you lean toward massacre, you'll like *Finding Sand Creek*. To find more about the controversy itself, read *The Three Battles of Sand Creek* and *A Misplaced Massacre*. If you want to be "fair, balanced and unafraid," read at least one from each category.

I'll make your first choice easy - since *I Stand by Sand Creek* is an Old Army Press book, I'll send you a copy, post paid, for \$10. Send your check to Old Army Press, P.O Box 1650, Johnstown, CO 80534. Get started now!

Greene, Jerome A. & Douglas D. Scott, *Finding Sand Creek: History, Archeology and the 1864 Massacre Site*, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 2004

Two of the best names in the field of western military history collaborated on this book. The scholarship is solid and the book well written. A hint of the controversy about the actual location of this conflict will be uncovered here, perhaps a bit of leaning to the NPS view. A great book.

Michno, Gregory F. *Battle at Sand Creek: The Military Perspective*, El Segundo, CA, Upton and Sons, 2004.

My personal favorite. As usual, Greg produces a soundly researched, well written book, presenting a slightly different story than the one in Greene and Scott's book. Michno pictures a battle hard fought with heavy casualties on both sides. Not the usual picture of Sand Creek.

_____ *The Three Battles of Sand Creek: In Blood, in Court, and as the End of History.*

The major contribution of Greg's latest work on Sand Creek is a very thorough look at the three investigations into conduct of the battle. This is an extremely thought provoking book and far from just another re-telling of a familiar tale.

Craig, Reginald S., *The Fighting Parson: Biography of Col. John M. Chivington*, Los Angeles, Western Lore Press, 1959.

It is hard to believe that this is the only biography of John Chivington, but it's true. To say this is a sympathetic treatment would be an understatement, but the basic facts are there. It is well past time for a critical look at this pivotal player, but I doubt we will see one. His actions are hard to defend, and very controversial.

Kraft, Louis, *Ned Wynkoop and the Lonely Road From Sand Creek*, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 2011.

Wynkoop was another major player in this saga, and on the other side of John Chivington. This is an outstanding piece of work, and reasonably balanced given the toxicity of this story. A very good book.

Dunn, William R. *I Stand by Sand Creek: A Defense of Colonel John M. Chivington and the Third Colorado Cavalry*, Fort Collins, CO, The Old Army Press, 1985.

This slim volume is an unabashedly biased book leaping to the defense of the troops at Sand Creek. It does not try to be fair - it is a defense of these players. Dunn does present some very hard facts that are difficult to refute. Was he successful? Read it and see. I published this book as an answer to the sudden need to change our view of history. Much like what is happening in the Confederate states today. I don't like that, either!

Lecompte, Janet, *Pueblo, Hardscrabble Greenhorn: The Upper Arkansas, 1832 - 1856*, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1978.

Our first stop will be the El Pueblo History Museum. The quality of the museum will astonish you. The entire early history of White - Indian relations are depicted here. It will set the stage for conflicts in the future, This is an outstanding book, and an exceptional museum to help you visualize coming events.

Lavender, David, *Bent's Fort*, Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc. 1954.

Though published in 1954, David Lavender's work remains the best done on this incredible story. Reconstructed in 1976, Bent's Fort will be the highlight of our visit to southern Colorado. Perhaps the finest restoration in all of National Park , Bent's Fort will literally blow you away. This fort brings a vast number of historical events into one focal point. John Carson, Kit Carson's great-grandson, will walk us through the fort's story. Read this book and be prepared.

Moore, Jackson W., Jr. *Bent's Old Fort: An Archeological Study*, np, The State Historical Society of Colorado and Pruett Publishing Company, 1973.

After visiting this "Castle on the Plains," you may want to understand how this fort was recreated. Here is the incredible story.

Kelman, Ari, *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek*, Cambridge, Mass. Harvard University Press, 2013.

Those wishing to delve into the controversy surrounding the establishment of National Park status for this battle should read this volume. Indeed, the OIW is given a role in the acrimonious debate that preceded the creation of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. Note that the official description has now been changed from "Battle" to "Massacre." Kelman has produced a thought provoking book and one worth reading. Incidentally, the quotation ascribed to me is actually me quoting NPS's own Robert M. Utley!

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