

# Kidder site

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On June 1, 1867, Custer left Fort Hays with 1,100 men of the Seventh Cavalry to quell an Indian uprising which had threatened white settlers for three years. He patrolled north to Fort MacPherson on the Platte River near present day North Platte, Neb., then south to the forks of the Republican River where Benkelman, Neb., is today.

A detail including Lt. Kidder, his guide, a Sioux scout named Red Bead, and 10 soldiers set out to deliver dispatches from General Sherman to Custer. They died along Beaver Creek after being attacked by nearly 500 Indians and trying to flee, fighting all the way.

The site was dedicated in their memory in 1967, Cooper said, and has seen its share of attention in the years since. The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau conducted tours in 2002, and in 1997, a pageant was held at the site to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the massacre. "Infantry" from Fort Larned came for the event.

Kidder and his men set out from Fort Sedgewick near Julesburg, Colo., with dispatches from Gen. William T. Sherman to be delivered to Col. G.A. Custer, according to the book "A Dispatch to Custer — The Tragedy of Lieutenant Kidder" by Randy Johnson and Nancy Allan.

Not finding Custer at his camp on the Republican River, the book said, authorities



Lloyd Harden of rural Sherman County fashioned silhouettes of a cavalryman with a gun and an Indian on a horse to mark the site of the battle that prevented Lt. Lyman S. Kidder and his

men from delivering messages from Gen. William T. Sherman to Lt. Col. George Custer in July 1867. The silhouettes were finished in spring 2003 and added to the site later that year.

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