

Blackfeet Agency, M.T.
5th April 1872

Col. J.A. Viall
Supt. Indians for Montana

Sir,

I have the honor to report the occurrence of an affray in the Piegan Camp about 30 miles below here in the Teton River. It took place sometime between the 15th and 20th of March 1872, but the exact date I am unable to ascertain as my informants are Indians.

Mountain Chief and his oldest son and two other Piegan Indians were killed. It was caused, as near as I can find out, by Whiskey being brought into camp by Indians and half breeds.

The quarrel was wholly among the Indians and no whites were in any way connected with it.

Mountain Chief and son were brought here and buried by me.

I have also to state that in the 29th March, hearing that since whiskey traders were in this vicinity, I immediately sent some of my employees in search of them.

There were two of them and they had just left a camp of Piegan Indians about two miles from the agency when my men arrived there. The Traders had one riding horse each and the pack horses between them. Upon being pursued one of them made his escape into the hills but the other one was captured with the three horses and all the whiskey which was about 18 galls.

The whiskey was immediately spilled and man with his horses and other plunder brought to this agency. The man was next day taken by me to Fort Shaw and examined before U.S. Commissioner George Hilt. In default of \$1000 bail he was committed to jail to await the action of the next U.S. Grand Jury.

He is now in the guard house at Fort Shaw and will be taken to Helena Jail in a few days by U.S. Marshal Hard. His conviction I consider almost certain. The other man will be caught before long I hope.

J. Armitage
Respectfully Your Obt Servant
U.S. Agent for Blackfeet and others