

Shafer Indian Massacre -- 1878
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MORE WHITES SLAUGHTERED
The Government Avengers Kill Two More Whites and Wound A Third

The Shafer families residing at Greenwood twenty-eight miles north of Sidney on the S. & B.H. Stage line, have had more than their share of sorrow and mourning these past few months. The Shafers are ranchmen, well-known, and hard working people.

Sometime last summer, Daniel, a grown up son of Mr. Henry Shafer, was accidentally drowned at Greenwood, and his death was deeply mourned. On Friday, October 18, a second and more crushing blow befell the hapless families. Mr. Mage Shafer [Milton W. Shafer] aged twenty years, and son of Henry Shafer, accompanied by his two young nephews, sons of John Shafer, left the ranch a few minutes before 10 o'clock for the purpose of rounding up some cattle preparatory to yoking them up. When about five or six hundred yards from the house they discovered three Indians on horseback, on a hill, some distance off. All three started back. By the time the Indians, who had once been taken by the Shafers to be cowboys, had approached within shooting distance and opened fire killing a seven year old boy instantly and fatally wounding Mage Shafer. One of the Indians rode up to the smallest boy who was running towards the house and struck him several heavy blows with his quuk, but the little boy made his escape. The Indians then rode back to the hill, without further molesting the bodies of their victims and leisurely started off in a southwesterly direction.

Several Soldiers were near the spot and we understand volunteered to protect the families of the house. The settlers heavily garnered and the bodies were taken to the ranch, where Mage Shafer died some four hours after being shot. He was conscious until death relieved him of his terrible wound.

The stage just then arrived and Billy Welch, the driver, tried hard to secure a gun but unavailingly did assist others in driving off or pursuing the savages. The Indians went their way unmolested. Mr. Cochran and wife; the Tuslers' and men, together with other ranchmen immediately rallied to render such assistance as possible under the terrible circumstances.

On Sunday Messrs. J.F. Gantz and Geo. Liscomb went out from Sidney with coffins and on Monday the murdered boys were buried near their old home. Mr. Henry Tusler conducted the exercises and there were six pall bearers and six armed men from Tuslers' ranch as escort. The kindness of Mr. Cochran and all the others who rendered every assistance possible was feelingly appreciated by the sorely afflicted families.

The youngest boy is still confined to his bed. And thus ends another act in the Quaker drama purchased so dearly by the government. It will take but every small dose more of it to make Rome howl in this region.

Contributed by [Mary D. Mayfield](#)