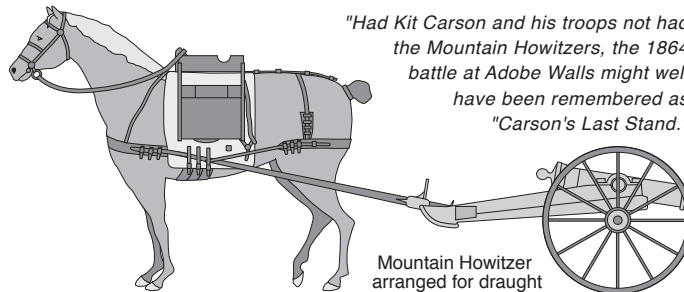


EARLY HUTCHINSON COUNTY PIONEERS



"Had Kit Carson and his troops not had the Mountain Howitzers, the 1864 battle at Adobe Walls might well have been remembered as "Carson's Last Stand."

Mountain Howitzer arranged for draught

The 1864 Battle at Adobe Walls

The first Battle of Adobe Walls, occurred on November 26, 1864. The Comanche and Kiowa tribes in the area had attacked wagon trains enroute to New Mexico. Attempting to stop to these attacks, Gen. James H. Carleton, military commander in New Mexico, sent Col. Christopher (Kit) Carson to locate the Indians in their winter campgrounds and defeat them. Carson left Ft. Bascom near Cimarron, NM in the early winter of 1874, with about 300 soldiers and 100 Indian scouts. His command included Lt. Pettis' platoon of Mountain Howitzers. Carson located the Kiowas led by Chief To-hausen near the ruins of Adobe Walls, an abandoned trading post. After the troops attacked the Kiowa village, the Indians were reinforced by the arrival of many additional warriors. The soldiers were forced to retreat to higher ground with their howitzers. Carson led his forces west to Adobe Walls, which he knew from his time as a buffalo hunter there twenty years earlier. He knew the ruins would provide shelter from the rapidly-intensifying Indian attacks, but he didn't know that within a mile of Adobe Walls was a Comanche camp and as many as 5,000 Comanche. This was much greater opposition than Carson or Carleton expected. The Indians attacked occurred throughout the day, but the Indians were disconcerted by the Howitzers. Carson and his men made their successful retreat during the nights of the 26th and 27th. In all, Carson's force lost 6 with twenty-five wounded. The Indian forces were estimated to have lost between 100 and 150. ■

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HCHM

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