

O-Com-O-Cost, (Yellow Wolf) (- 4 Apr 1863)

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Death of an Indian Chief

Yellow Wolf, chief of the Kiowa Indians, and who was sent here as one of the delegates to see the President, died on Saturday evening at the Washington House after a short illness, and was buried yesterday afternoon, at the request of the surviving Indians. "as the white brethren were." The Government furnished the coffin, which was a very fine one. About half an hour before the breath left deceased his companions commenced to paint his face, hands and feet with a red paint, and then securing new clothing and new blankets, they arrayed the dying chief in them.

A few moments before expiring Yellow Wolf sent to Major S.G. Colley, the Indian agent for that and other tribes, and taking the agent's hands, said to him: "We have come a great way to see our Great Father, and make peace. I have seen the big father, and am at peace with every one -- with the Great Spirit and with the Great Father -- and I am now going to lay down and sleep with him here."

As soon as the chief expired, his companions took his bow and arrows and broke them in half. They were then made up in a bundle together with his other effects and will be buried with him, as also will his buffalo robes and blankets, and all that he owned at the time of his death. A large silver medal, a present from President Jefferson to Yellow Wolf's ancestors, will be buried with him also. This appears almost ridiculous, as it has been handed down from father to son since the days of President Jefferson, and is a connecting link between the present and the past which should be placed in charge of the Government. But the Indians insist upon its interment with Yellow Wolf, and the agents do not desire to offend them by a refusal.

Yellow Wolf was nearly 59 years of age, and Major Colley, the agent of the tribe, and of the Indians in their section, says he is a serious loss, as he was always disposed to peace, and ruled his people justly but firmly. Another strange fact connected with his death is, that when the delegation was about leaving their western homes, the family of Yellow Wolf implored him not to leave, and were so persistent in their efforts to induce him to remain, as to follow the delegation for miles, and with tears and lamentations vainly endeavored to dissuade him from going.