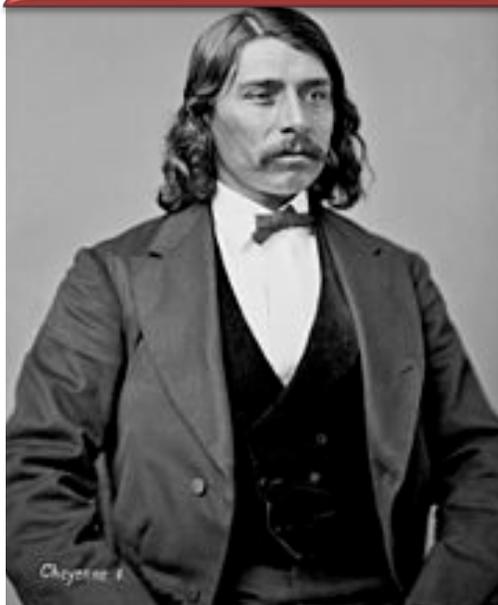


Meet Edmund Guerrier



Real People! Real Stories!

Santa Fe Trail Hall of Fame

Edmund Guerrier
(1840 – 1921)

- Bullwhacker, Scout & Trader
- Interpreter and courier
- Sand Creek Survivor
- With Hancock Expedition, 1867
- Married to Julia Bent, William Bent's Daughter
- Geary, OK named for him

Real People! Real Stories!

Edmund Guerrier was born in 1840 in a Cheyenne village along the Smoky Hill River in present day Kansas. (Some reports list his birthplace as being at a trading post along the North Platte River near Fort Laramie, WY.) His father was William Guerrier, a Frenchman, and his mother was Tah-tah-tois-neh, a Cheyenne woman. His father was employed by William Bent as a trader. Following his mother's death from cholera in 1849, Edmund was sent to Saint Mary's Mission School in eastern Kansas and later attended Saint Louis University.

In 1862 he left Saint Louis and returned to the west where he took a job as a bullwhacker on the Santa Fe Trail between Fort Leavenworth, KS, and Fort Union, NM. In New Mexico, he worked transporting Apache prisoners to Fort Sumner, where Kit Carson was the Commander. In 1864, he was present at Fort Larned where William Bent and a party of Cheyenne Indians had come for a peace council. This meeting gave Guerrier the opportunity to meet his Cheyenne relatives and also to meet William Bent and his son George and daughter Julia, whom Guerrier would later marry.

In November 1864, Guerrier was at Sand Creek, CO, when Col. John Chivington and 700 soldiers attacked the camp, massacring over 100 women and children while the men were away on a buffalo hunt. George and Julia were also there. Although George was wounded, he, Julia, and Edmund managed to escape the carnage. At the Treaty of the Little Arkansas in 1865, Guerrier was employed as an interpreter and courier. In 1866, he worked as a trader for William Bent and in 1867 he worked as a scout and interpreter for the Hancock Expedition in Kansas. That same year he and George and Julia Bent also participated in the Medicine Lodge Treaty in Kansas.

By the early 1870's, Guerrier had quit scouting for the Army and worked as a trader at Camp Supply, TX, for the A. E. Reynolds and Lee Company. He and Julia Bent married in 1875 (some accounts have them married in 1865). They settled on the Darlington Cheyenne Reservation in Oklahoma where Edmund, Julia, and their children William and Anna each received 160 acre land allotments. Here Edmund operated a trading post for years. When a new post office was opened in the area in 1893, it was named for Guerrier, although the spelling of the name was changed to Geary. Edmund died on February 22, 1921, and is buried in the Geary Cemetery as is his wife Julia.