

and led the Flatheads as war chief against their enemies, which constituted all of the tribes who hunted buffalo on the Atlantic slope, except the Nez Percés, who were the friends and allies of the Flatheads.

A battle with the Gros Ventres was fought some fifty years ago, about one mile west of O'Keefe's ranch, at the mouth of the canyon where the Northern Pacific crosses the great Marant tressle and sweeps from the east into the Jocko mountains. Chief Factor Kitson, of the Hudson Bay Fur company, who had his headquarters at Thompson Falls on the Pend d'Oreille river, came with a pack train of supplies from that post to trade with the Flathead Indians, who were encamped near the site of the present city of Missoula. Having made his trade and secured the furs Mr. Kitson started his pack train up the canyon to unload at the company's warehouse at Thompson Falls. Two South Sea Islanders in the employ of Chief Factor Kitson went ahead with the train, but as they gained the entrance to the canon were fired upon by an ambushed party of Gros Ventres, consisting of about 100 Indians. The two packers were slain, Mr. Kitson and others of his party were about a mile in the rear of the advance party or he and his companions would have shared the same fate. Kitson turned back and informed the Flathead camp of the attack and the chiefs at once sounded the alarm. The warriors mounted their horses and headed by Adolph and Arlee made an advance on the camp of the hostiles. The Gros Ventres retreated across the hills and up Savallie creek, which is about seven miles west of Missoula. The Flatheads