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STATESIDE JOTTINGS

by
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Custer's Last Stand

The site of George Custer's last stand is legendary. It is located around the 'Little Big Horn' creek that is in southeastern Montana. This is a legend in memory and a National Park at this time. Most people know of this place but few know anything about the situation there. The Indians call the incident the Battle of Greasy Grass Creek. The location is close to the town of Garryowen, Mt.

The unique thing here is that Custer's theme song was called 'Garryowen' and it came from England. The action of Custer has been a controversy since the battle. He was a rogue that was promoted mistakenly to General in the Civil War. He did manage to win many battles due to his 'Charge and fight hopefully'. He was demoted after the war and was put out of the Army for a time. He fought to regain his military service and finally was returned to duty as a Lieutenant Colonel.



Main Complex from Site of Last Stand

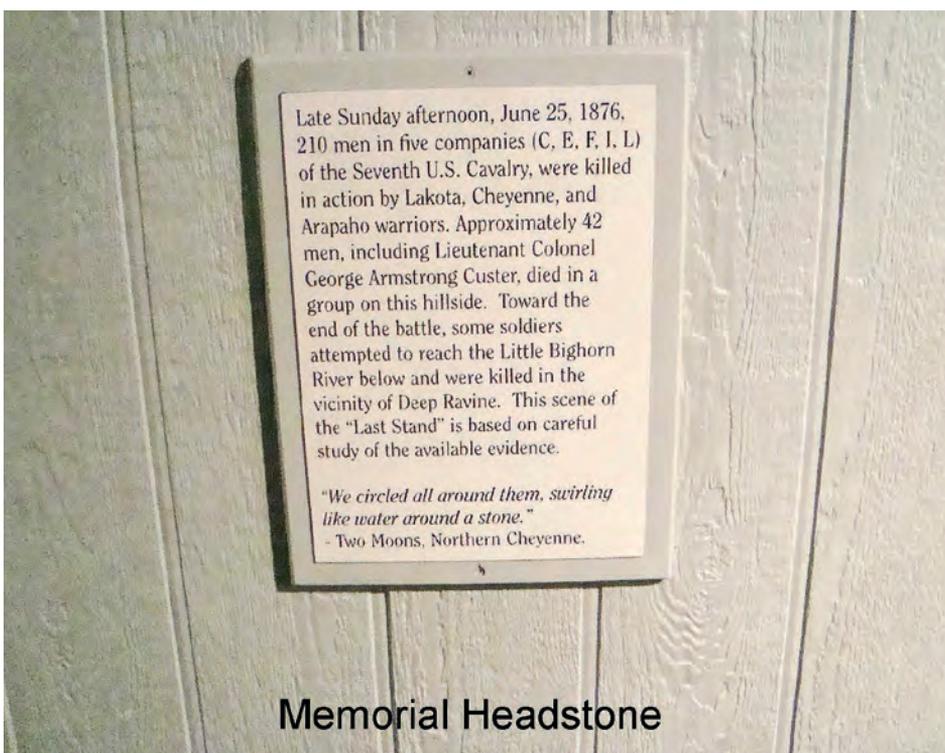
His activity during this second service time was frowned on by the powers to be and he was ordered to return to Washington D.C. to account for certain things. He immediately chose a coming Army Exercise to get past this. He was to meet with General Crook and move into

the Little Big Horn area in Montana. Custer drove his men hard and arrived about three days ahead to General Crook's unit. He had visions of a quick victory and this would save his troubles with the Military Commanders in Washington.

The Seventh Cavalry was all but eliminated during this battle and it was disbanded for years after. Custer had originally planned on a front attack on a large Indian village on June 26, however his scouts reported information that the military might have been discovered. Custer now chose to attack the morning of June 25. He split his men into three sections. Major Reno would take three companies, Capt. Benteen took three and Custer moved forward with five companies. There are many assumptions as to how the battle began and the course it took. The Park Headquarters has many informative items and showcases.

This battleground is historic and known all over the world. The actual battle that Custer fought is not well known as all his men were killed. A single survivor was an Indian scout named Curly. In addition one horse survived. Comanche, the horse, was believed for years to have been Custer's horse however he actually was Capt. Keogh's horse. Comanche was taken back to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and maintained a very good life until his death.

A total of 268 men were killed here,



Memorial Headstone

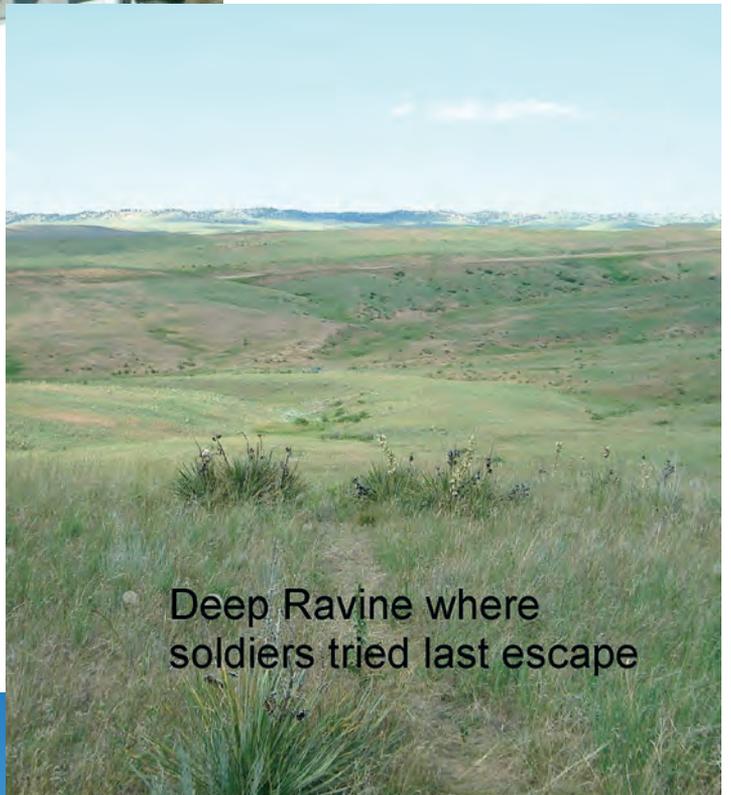


including Army Indian Scouts. Known Indian Chiefs were Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and Chief Gall. Basically Cheyenne, Lakota and Sioux were together in this massive battle. A total military manpower was around 600. Indian strength was over 1000. A unique item here is the Indian braves were armed with lever action rifles and the military still was using single shot weapons from the Civil War era.

The Little Big Horn Battle site is a National Park at this time and it is well maintained. There are movie presentations and informative talks given by rangers throughout the day. There is a nice museum with battle scenes laid out to view. You can take a vehicle tour of the grounds or a walking one. The legend of the battle has been debated for years and everyone has their own opinion as to the entire battle scene. If you have never stopped to see this site, it is well worth a few hours.



Custer's Last Stand Site



Deep Ravine where soldiers tried last escape



Burial Mound

PLEASE SEND LETTERS, ARTICLES, INFORMATION AND OTHER ITEMS RELATING TO RVs TO THE EDITOR
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