

150830 - Bighorn National Monument

Thursday, September 10, 2015
8:10 AM

Little Bighorn, A Place of Reflection

This area memorializes the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry and the Sioux and Cheyenne in one of the Indian's last armed efforts to preserve their way of life. Here on June 25 and 26 of 1876, 263 soldiers, including Lt. Col. George A. Custer and attached personnel of the U.S. Army, died fighting several thousand Lakota, and Cheyenne warriors.



Sitting Bull Tatanka-iyotanka



Lt. Col. George
Armstrong Custer



I will never harm the Cheyennes again. I will never point my gun at a Cheyenne again.

I will never kill another Cheyenne.

General George Armstrong Custer (1869)



If you break your promise, you and your soldiers will go to dust like this.

If you are acting treacherously toward us, sometime you and your whole command will be killed!

Stone Forehead, Arrow Keeper, Cheyenne (1869)



Original 10 Bands of the Cheyenne Chief's Council of Forty Four

On March 15, 1869, after the Washita Battle, General George Armstrong Custer smoked the pipe with Stone Forehead, Keeper of the Sacred Arrows at Sweetwater. Long Hair (Custer) promised never to fight the Cheyenne people again. The ashes from the Sacred Arrow Keeper's pipe were then poured on the heel of Long Hair's boot.

Our Land is everything to us. I will tell you one of the things we remember on our land. We remember that our grandfathers paid for it - with their lives.

John Wooden Legs, Cheyenne (1869)

Yellow Horse Counting Coup with the Flag He Captured from the Soldiers (Yellow Horse Leader)

Haa'wata ehe, toa'w'e netah'ehowaabe? Nenotaxemo naniboha'ovno'u. Tosa'e netah'u hova' Long Hair, where did you run and hide? We rounded up your soldiers, where did you run and hide? Cheyenne Victory Dance Song, composed after the Battle of Washita (1868)




Head Warriors and Dead and Dying Soldiers (from the Spirit of 1869 - Yellow Horse Leader)

It was here that Yellow Horse got a company flag, snatching it from the ground where it stood, and counted coup with it on a soldier.

White Shield, Cheyenne (1906)

I was present there and tried to cross the river. As the troops were crossing the river, the Indians kept killing them right along.

Jacob Tall Bull, Cheyenne (1898)

I have been in many hard fights, but I never saw such brave men.

Brave Wolf, Cheyenne (1895)

Corn Woman and Brave Wolf, Cheyenne

Custer rode down to the river bank and formed a line of battle and prepared to charge. But then he stopped and fell back up the hill, but he met Indians coming from above and all sides, and again formed a line. It was here that they were killed.

White Bull, Cheyenne (1895)

The Indians rode right up to them and snatched some of their horses as they were running, and some fell off in the river. It was like chasing buffalo - a grand chase.

American Horse, Cheyenne (1895)

Two Men & American Horse, Cheyenne


Yellow Horse captured from a soldier a flag with a gilt lance head on the staff, the only one of this kind taken. About fifteen flags were captured.

Little Hawk, Cheyenne (1907)

"Hiyupo! Follow Me"

The first command spoken by Lakota War Leaders

Iron Hail



OYATE

WE ARE ALLIED DAKOTA - LAKOTA - NAKOTA


OYATE

LEADERS - Sitting Bull • Kill Eagle • Inkpaduta • Big Road • Low Dog • Little Hawk • Hump • Fast Bull • Black Shield
Lame Deer • Red Hawk • High Backbone • Crow King • Iron Dog • Black Moon • Crowler • Gull • Rain in the Face • Red Horn
Old Eagle • Two Eagles • Black Eagle • Crazy Bull • Flying Chaser • Crow Dog • Charging Thunder • Iron Horse • Four Horses • Bear Face

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE FALLEN - Hump Nose • Young Black Moon • Dog With Horns • Castako • Bad Horn Buffalo • Cuts • Flying Charge • Hawk Man
Black Witch • Dog Backbone • Bear With Horns • High Horse • Swift Bear • Three Bears • Bad Light Hair • Cloud Man • Elk Stands On Top • High Eagle • Plenty Love
Elk Standing High • Eagle Hat • Elk Bear • Killy Hump • Clashed By Day • Young Bear • Lone Dog • Long Road • Young Shunk • Chief High Eagle • Stomping Elk • Mavavju • South Cloud
Two Bears • White Buffalo Bull • Standing Rabbit • Big Design • Black Fox • Bush Cloth • White Bull • Owns Red Horse • Flying By • High Elk • Bad Yellow Hair • Red Face • White Eagle • Dead


"That night the Lakota men, women and children lighted many fires and danced; their hearts were glad for the Great Spirit had given them a great victory."

(all Lakota)



- Lights • Red Hill • Blue Coat • Bear Rib • Little Moon • Lone Wolf • Elk Nation • White Cloud
- Chief Man • Scabby Place • Little Bear • Stands First • Holy Cloud • Tanand Nuts • Lightning Killer
- The Bull • Spread(ed) Pine • Black Tongue • Runs Fearless • Horned Antelope • White Face • Red Horn Bull
- Good Boy • Top Lodge • Turtle Rib • Plenty Shells • Blunt Horn • Runs On Top • He Dog • Long Victor • Good Fox
- Brave Heart • Big Nose • Comes The Day • Plenty of Meat • Cross Bear • Lone Horn • Wood Boat • Wild Horse • Scaring Bear
- Foolish Elk • Swords • Short • Good Bear • Holy Bull • Bull Head • Long Bull • Red Tomahawk • Bear Comes Out • Makes Room
- Spotted Rabbit • No Two Horns • The Shield • Little Eagle • Likes to Fight • Fast Thunder • Horseshoe • Young Eagle • Thunder Tail
- Little Big Man • Brown Eagle • Three Hawks • Sweet • Living Bear • White Horse • Tall Bull • Bear Star • Scabby Face • Leggings • Iron Hair
- Own Bobtail Horse • Loader • Male Bear • Bear Ghost • One Horn • Long Tree • One Elk • Little Knife • Rattling Hawk • The Haggan • Gray Whirlwind
- Horse Bear • Foolish Heart • White Gut • Frog • Iron Bear • Jack Rabbit • Shell • Eat • Sing • Red Dog • Crow Boy • Brave Crow • Long Handle • Iron Jabbing
- Bull Eagle • Saddle • War Shanty • Yellow Cloud • Falls The Pipe • Stumbling Bear • Bear Soldier • The Hand • Little Boy • Thick Face • Brown Wolf • Red Crane
- Poor Bear • Eagle Pipe • Good Voice Elk • Water Snake • Four Belets • Sitting Elk • Walks In Mud • Red Bird • Broad Tail • One Bull • Bad Partisan • Lone Eagle • Spotted Bear
- Medicine Cloud • Scar Leg • Haz Horn • The Bad • Old Bull • Long Feather • Sitting Bear • Fat Clown • Black Eye Lid • Kamto • Lean Crow • Black Prairie Dog • Hollow Sunflower
- Sitting Crow • Gopher • Put On His Shoes • Red Cloud • Little Crow • Yellow Leg • Red Feather • White Ghost • Many Claws • Shoots Holy • Comes From War • Brave • Stinking Bear
- Gray Bull • Little Soldier • Shot In The Face • Bear Lying Down • Bear Thunder • Around The Quon • Wounded In Back • Lone Bear • Thunder Bear • Blunt The Enemy • Long Horn • One Dog
- Tripe Fold • Little Bull • Yellow Horse • Straight Head • Scaled Bear • Black Deer • Yellow Bull • Fast Eagle • Four Bears • Red Tail • Grandfather • Iron Thunder • Wreath Bear • Stone White Crow
- Fat On The Beef • Struck By Crow • Big Belly • Male • Takes The Horse • Don't Paint His Face • Kill The Married • White Face Bear • Robe Tail Outside • Grey Earth Track • Kills Enemy In Winter • Bone Club
- Standing Black Bear • Bear With Winter Paws • Afraid Of Nothing Bear • Walks Inventing • Long Mandan • Soldier Hawk • Attacking Bear • Black Bird • Minnie Hollow Wood • Blue Mountain • Old Bear • Brave Bear
- Painted Brown • Two Horn • Tamiyajida • Spotted Stealer (from Tall)

"generosity, compassion and sacrifice."




Tatanke Iyotake
Sitting Bull
HUNKPAPA LAKOTA, 1831-1890

Tatanke Iyotake lived the spiritual way of his ancestors. He believed in the law of the Cananpa (Pipe) and the sacred existence with nature. Tatanke Iyotake proved he was a protector and caregiver to the people through his generosity, compassion and self-sacrifice.

In early June 1876 the Lakota held their annual Sundance along Rosebud Creek below Deer Medicine Rocks. Tatanke Iyotake offered 50 pieces of flesh from each arm. On the second day of the Sundance he received a vision. He saw soldiers falling into camp upside down, and a voice told him, "I give you these because they have no ears. Sitting Bull was also instructed to warn people: "These dead soldiers who are coming are the gifts of the creative. Kill them, but do not take their guns or horses. Do not touch the spirits. If you set your hearts upon the goods of the white man, it will prove a curse to this nation."

Tatanke Iyotake did not participate in the battle because he listened to the wisdom and advice of his mother. She told him he did not have to fight, that it was time to let the younger men prove their ability to protect the village. She advised him to take care of the non-combatants. After the battle, he went to a ridge, filled his Cananpa (Pipe) and prayed for the fallen warriors. He also prayed for Custer and his men.

Family of Tatanke Iyotake



Ta Simke Witko
Crazy Horse
1840-1877

"truth, justice and wisdom."

"In order to heal our grandmother earth we must unify through peace."

In memory of the Lakota band of the Great Sioux Nation: Curthead, Two Kettle, Blackfoot, Minnekaoui, Hunkpapa, No Nose, and Flathead. Also the Dakota (Mdewakanton, Wahpeton, Wahpetowan, Sisseton) and Arapaho Bands (Bantowan-Yankton, Hantowan-Yankton) of the Great Sioux Nation, and Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations who fought here with us against the U.S. 7th Cavalry. The battle was fought because the United States wanted the Black Hills and its natural resources.

Ta Simke Witko fought in this battle to preserve a way of life for the Lakota Ojate. Our grandfathers protected our Sacred Pipe because it was given to us by the Creator believing that all mankind was given the power of Truth, Justice, and Wisdom. All the warriors at this battle who were killed believed this way. Our grandfathers say that the Cheyenne and Arapaho came because they had family ties with the Lakota Nation.

Our Grandfather Ta Simke Witko was a man who prayed with the Sacred Pipe, played with the children, and listened to the elders. He saw that all living things were higher than him because he knew that mankind had the power of choice to do right or wrong, good or bad. Our grandfathers told us that all mankind were created equal and they represent the earth man with no skin color. In order to heal our grandmother earth we must unify through peace.

Palmer Le Uni Piya
"Thank You, We Live"

Ta Simke Witko Tatanke
(Family of TA SIMKE WITKO)



