

NEBRASKA STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Olive, Mont.  
July. 18-1931

A. E. Sheldon

Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Mr Sheldon

Your letter of July ninth at hand  
And I am very glad to hear from  
you. And to give you the following  
information. It wasnt the fifth Cavalry  
It was the third Cavalry from  
Forth Russell, near Cheyenne Wyo.  
In January 21-1879 was the time  
of the fight. Major Evans <sup>was</sup> Commanding  
officer from Fort Larnie, Wyo.

Buffalo Bill. wasnt in or near the  
fight, wasnt in the country at the time  
It wasnt Chief Yellow Hand. The  
Chief of the Cheyennes at that time  
was Bull Knife. Bull Knife was  
killed by the soldiers of the third  
Cavalry. The fight took place at the  
mouth of Indian creek, where it  
empties into Hot creek about fifteen  
miles from bluff Station. Bluff Station  
a stage station. Between Cheyenne

File  
Cheyenne  
Indian  
Bull Knife



and the Black Hills.

The first fight was at Fort Robinson  
Jan 21 - 1879. 9<sup>30</sup> P.M.

The second fight took place a few  
days later at the mouth of Indian Creek  
where they were all killed in a wash  
out hole. By the third Cavalry  
Tracked to the wash out hole by a  
Indian girl, who had left the  
wash out to get some water  
and her tracks were seen on a  
fresh skiff of snow. The Indians  
had been in the wash out for about  
two days. Every Indian was killed  
little Big and all about four hundred.  
I was there at the time I know just  
how it happened I was Scout if I  
could see you I could give you  
more details. Please let me hear  
from you again.

Very Truly,

Mike Gilmore

P.S. I was at Big Hole fight  
" " " Clusters  
" " " Fort Robinson "  
" " " Wounding Knee "



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lincoln, Nebraska,  
July 23, 1931.

Mike Gilmore,  
Olive, Montana.

Dear Friend:

Your very interesting letter of July 18, carefully read. What you write me about is the Dull Knife raid in 1878-79. We have the story of that raid from a number of different persons. It is also in print in a number of different books, especially the two books on the Cheyenne tribe by George B. Grinnell of New York. However your letter is a valuable contribution on that subject and we are glad to file it among our historical manuscripts.

My inquiry is about an altogether different fight. From an account of this fight, which took place July 17, 1876, in a letter from James B. Grew I quote the following:

"July 17th, Indians reported by the pickets. The command ordered to secrete in ravines, but two couriers arriving from the agency being in danger, Cody fired on the Indians, killing the Chief, Yellow Hand. The rest tried to rescue him, but we charged on them, killing six. Followed them into the agency 40 miles.

"18th, started to Laramie. Marched 10 miles.

"19th, Camped on running water, 25 miles."

The above quotation was taken from Mr. Frew's letter and was placed in his letter from a diary which he carried while engaged in the campaign. You will note from the above brief extract it is altogether different proposition from the one you have in mind. This is Mr. Frew's account of the killing of Chief Yellow Hand which is written up in a number of wild west books as a hand to hand duel between Buffalo Bill - Cody - and the Chief.

And this brings me back to the original question. Have you any reliable information from any source as to the exact site or nearly exact site of this battle between the Cheyenne and the Fifth Cavalry? We shall be very glad to receive it if you have.

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Under another cover I am sending you copy of a recent magazine published by us relating to Crazy Horse and the entire Indian war region. You can pay us for this magazine by writing in your own time your recollections of pioneer events in Northwest Nebraska. Along with those recollections better give us a little personal sketch of yourself, telling us where and when you were born, what you did in boyhood and youth, what you were engaged in while in northwest Nebraska and what has happened since you moved away from there. This is quite a contract, but you will be contributing to Nebraska history and the true story of your old home. Take plenty of time to it. We shall be very glad to file your manuscript and probably to print some parts of it.

With sincere good wishes for yourself and memories of the old days in the White River Valley.

Secy & Supt

AES-IEJ



In Reminiscences of a Ranchman by Bronson on page 155 is the following description of the place where Dull Knife made his last stand.

"At a point on the Hat Creek Bluffs, near the head of War Bonnet Creek, forty-four miles a little to the south of west of Fort Robinson, the Cheyennes lay at bay in their last intrenchment, worn out with travel and fighting, and with scarcely any ammunition left. They were in a washout about fifty feet long, twelve feet wide, and five feet deep, near the edge of the bluffs."

*He should say ~~not~~ north of War Bonnet Creek.*