

Camp Sheridan, Nebraska: The Uncommonly Quiet Post on Beaver Creek

(Article begins on second page below.)

This article is copyrighted by History Nebraska (formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society). You may download it for your personal use. For permission to re-use materials, or for photo ordering information, see: <https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/re-use-nshs-materials>

Learn more about *Nebraska History* (and search articles) here:
<https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/nebraska-history-magazine>

History Nebraska members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* annually:
<https://history.nebraska.gov/get-involved/membership>

Full Citation: Paul L Hedren, “Camp Sheridan, Nebraska: The Uncommonly Quiet Post on Beaver Creek,” *Nebraska History* 91 (2010): 80-93

URL of article:

<https://history.nebraska.gov/sites/history.nebraska.gov/files/doc/publications/NH2010Sheridan.pdf>

Article Summary: Camp Robinson and Camp Sheridan, both founded in 1874, had much in common. Camp Robinson had a tumultuous history in the 1870s, however, while Camp Sheridan, under the influence of the leader Spotted Tail, existed quietly and then closed in 1881. This article includes lists of the units stationed at Camp Sheridan, the camp’s commanding officers and its doctors.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Spotted Tail, Red Cloud, Thomas S Dunn, Philip Henry Sheridan, Anson Mills, John Gordon, Richard Dodge, George Crook, Crazy Horse, Nelson A Miles, William H Corbusier

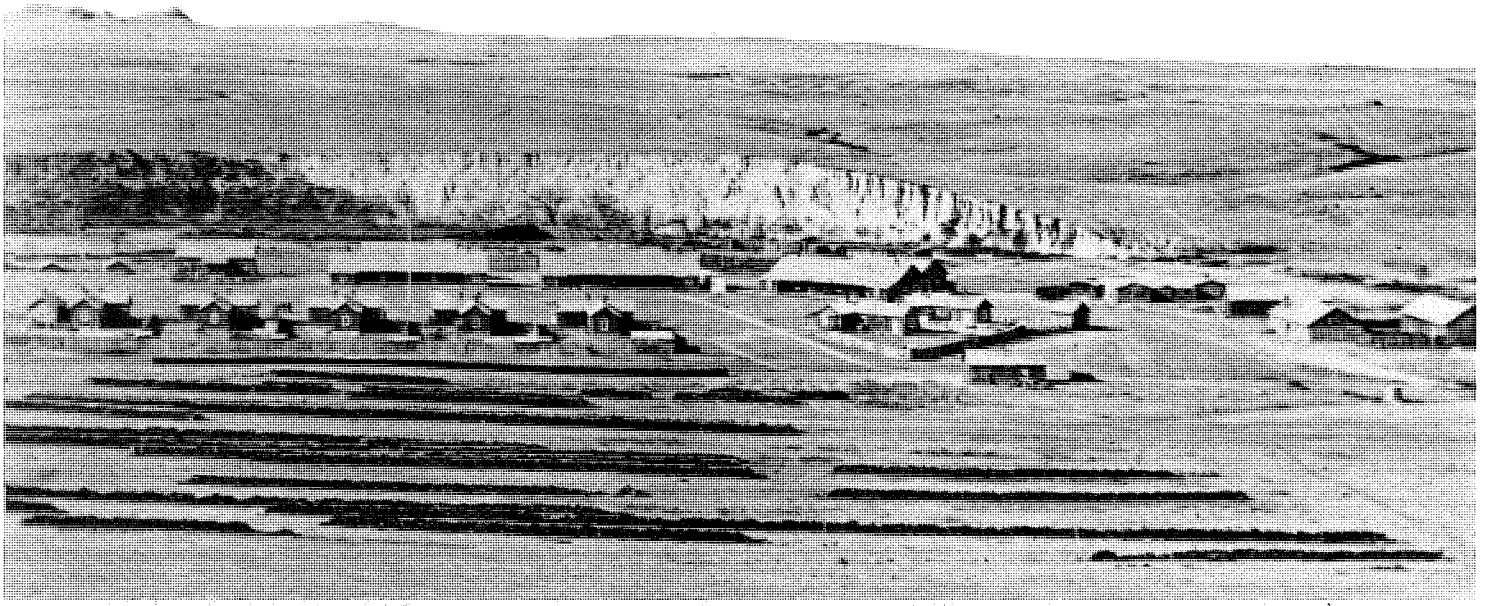
Places: Camp Sheridan, Camp Robinson, Spotted Tail Agency

Keywords: Camp Sheridan, Camp Robinson (later Fort Robinson), Spotted Tail, Brulés, Oglalas, Fort Laramie Treaty, Beaver Creek, Sioux Expedition of 1874, Great Sioux War, Sans Arcs, Miniconjou

Photographs / Images: Spotted Tail; Camp Sheridan looking westward*; map of Camp Sheridan/Camp Robinson vicinity; Camp Sheridan’s adjutant’s office; plan of Camp Sheridan; Camp Sheridan looking eastward*; Camp Sheridan hospital; Crazy Horse grave (2 views)*; Spotted Tail Agency, circa 1875-1877 (photographer unknown); Spotted Tail Agency environs*

*photographs by Pvt Charles Howard, October 1877





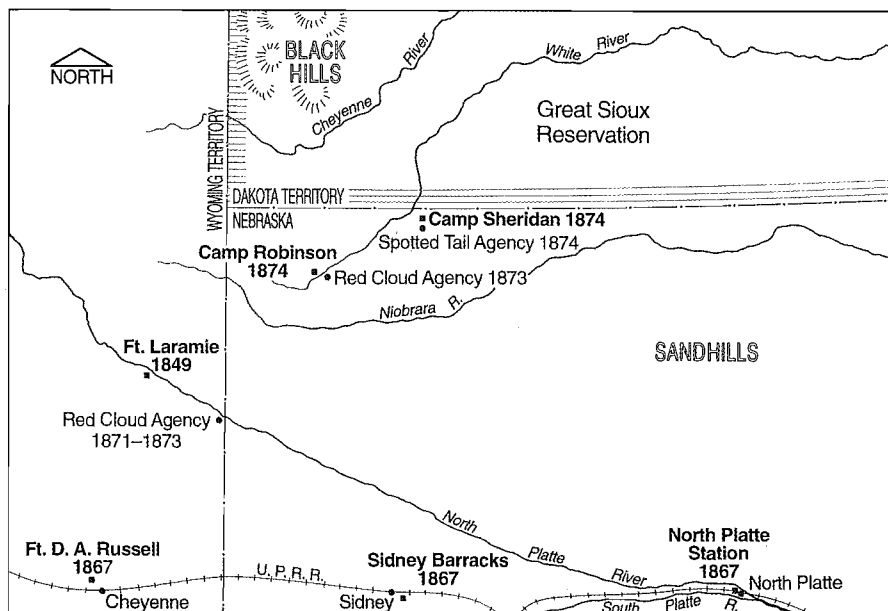
Camp Sheridan, October 1877. This well known view by Pvt. Charles Howard, shows Camp Sheridan looking westward. Corded wood fills the foreground. Smaller buildings in the middle of the scene are officers' quarters, backdropped by the post flagstaff and company barracks. Warehouses and the post trader's store fill the view on the far right. Smithsonian Institution, NAA INV 236900

CAMP SHERIDAN, NEBRASKA: The Uncommonly Quiet Post on Beaver Creek

BY PAUL L. HEDREN

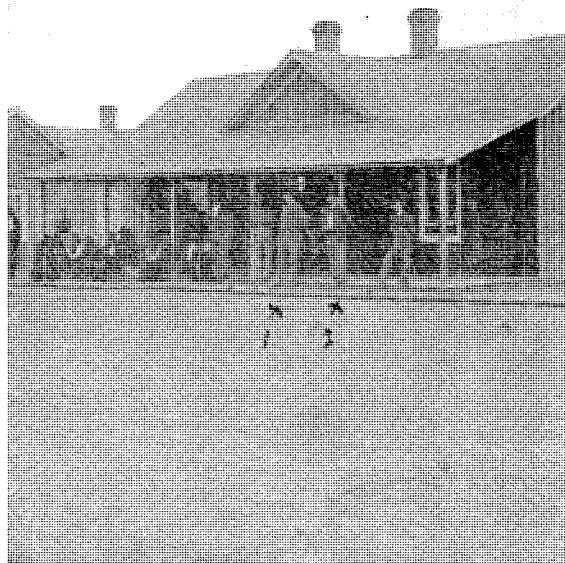
Left: Spotted Tail spent his adult life striving to balance Lakota nationalism with conciliation to the whites. It was wholly on his account that a Brulé agency was established on Beaver Creek in 1874, and that there existed a Camp Sheridan at all.
NSHS RG1227-9

Early in 1874 the United States Army founded two military posts in the Pine Ridge-White River countryside of northwestern Nebraska to oversee affairs at Red Cloud and Spotted Tail Indian agencies, also newly established in the same locale. Named in course Camp Robinson and Camp Sheridan, the posts shared close proximities, common purposes, physical landscapes, amenities (some said lack thereof), and prospects. For all they shared, however, the two installations could



**Camp Sheridan/
Camp Robinson Vicinity,
1874-1882**

not have evolved more differently. Camp (then Fort) Robinson's existence spanned seventy-five years, and certainly through the 1870s its story is seemingly a narrative of one significant or calamitous event following another. At Camp Sheridan, however, one necessarily looks beneath a veneer to find highlights of a place that was short-lived and indeed uncommonly quiet, despite its location



Camp Sheridan Adjutant's Office. The many Indians visible in this image demonstrate the intimacy of relationships between the residents of nearby Spotted Tail Agency and the camp's garrison. The photograph reproduces an original image, now lost, provided by E. A. Brininstool for *Nebraska History* 12 (1929): 69.

in Sioux Country during a remarkably tumultuous era. But Camp Sheridan's legacy had its own unique character that is perhaps best understood when seen within the context of one particular individual, a man of extraordinary temperament and influence who virtually alone explains why this installation and its locale were seemingly ever serene while nearby Camp Robinson was often on a tipping point.

The genesis for these White

River posts is grounded in the government's attempts at finding permanent agencies for Spotted Tail's Brulés and Red Cloud's Oglalas. Article 4 of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty had stipulated a single agency for the Sioux people to be located somewhere on the Great Sioux Reservation in the Dakota Territory, and preferably along the Missouri River.¹ But clearly the commissioners brokering that treaty poorly understood or acknowledged the political and cultural geography of the Lakota people. Within the broad expanse of Sioux Country there were northerners and southerners and people living in between, and while the Sioux bands often united in the summer months, traditional homes were located somewhere else and invariably beyond that gathering point. The Hunkpapa Lakotas, for instance, while known in the White River country, favored the Little Missouri drainage, and Montana's Big Open, and even British America, that sum comprising their preferred homeland.

The Brulés and Oglalas, on the other hand, were southerners who just as strongly favored the southern margins of the Black Hills, the Platte River valley, buffalo hunting in Kansas, and the landscapes in between. While these people also hunted in the Powder River Basin, their traditional homeland distinctly spanned the southern reaches of old Sioux Country.

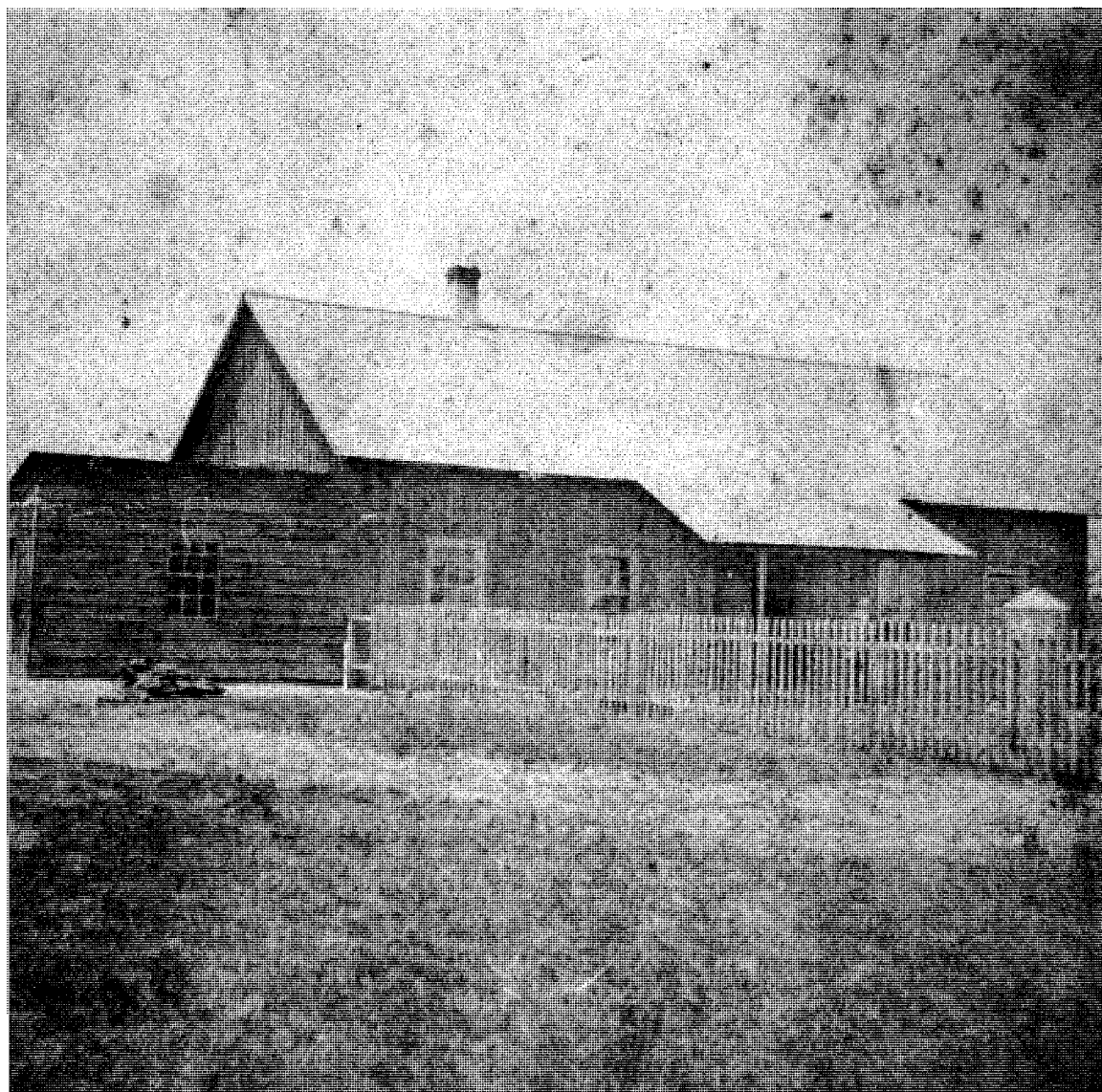
In the years immediately following the signing of the Fort Laramie Treaty, the Brulés and Oglalas were served at agencies whose locations shifted from time to time as both Indians and whites alike worked to accommodate the expectations spelled out in that fateful document. By 1874 Spotted Tail's people had tried and rejected farming, as stipulated in the treaty, had moved from a short-lived agency on the Missouri River to the White River, and then moved again that summer to Beaver Creek. For the next few years, Beaver Creek, a cold, clear affluent of the White that headed in the Pine Ridge and coursed northward through pine, ash, and cottonwood-speckled breaks, would figure prominently in the saga of the Brulés and the small army garrison that came to oversee their agency.²

Camp Sheridan, October 1877. This previously unpublished view taken by soldier-photographer Charles Howard of the Fourth Infantry, who visited the post with a surveying expedition, shows Camp Sheridan looking eastward. The back elevations of kitchens, barracks, and hospital (far right) dominate the scene. Photograph courtesy of Larry Ness, Yankton, South Dakota.



commanding officer." Crook's aide, 2nd Lt. John Bourke, commented about the layout, noting in his diary that "the perimeter of the ground-plan is strangely like a coffin." Under the supervision of post quartermaster Charles Rockefeller of the Ninth Infantry, construction progressed steadily. The flagstaff rose July 5 on the center of the parade ground. The companies built their own barracks, three in all, and joined in the construction of seven officers' quarters, plus a small hospital, guard-

house, blacksmith shop, and storehouses. Several log structures rose but mostly the buildings were a balloon-frame type construction with batten exteriors, sun-dried adobe bricks infilling the frames, and interior walls that were plastered and whitewashed. Haste was critical. Says Mills: "Trees felled in the morning were often part of buildings before sundown," and the command was comfortably housed before the first of October.⁶



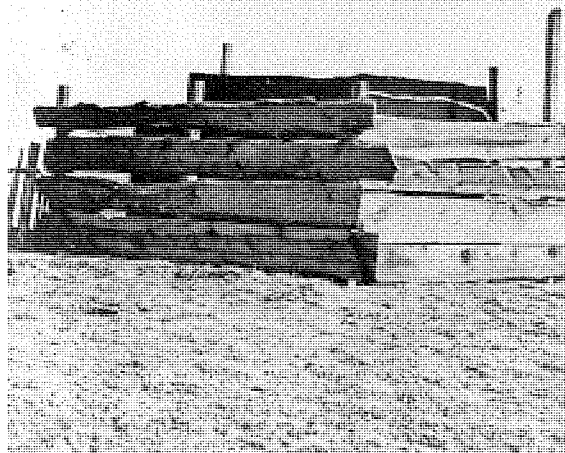
Camp Sheridan Hospital. Beyond the primary duty of tending to the well-being of Camp Sheridan's garrison, a surgeon's daily duties also included recording the weather, evident here in the small weather station visible on the right behind the picket fence. NSHS Fort Robinson Museum

During its short life Camp Sheridan's garrison was always small. Although Dunn brought five companies to the White River in 1874, and Mills imagined a five-barrack post when he laid out the site because he then still commanded that number, only three company quarters were built, two for infantry, usually from the Ninth regiment, and one for cavalry, typically from the Third regiment. Usually a senior company captain commanded the post, a medical officer was always present, and the garrison was joined by a post trader, who set up shop just north of barracks row.⁷

Although the conventional business of Camp Sheridan revolved around affairs at Spotted Tail Agency, the peaceful disposition of the chief and

his Brulés required very little direct attention. But as at every post in the region in the mid-1870s, Sheridan's troops were pressed to an array of tasks beyond its perimeter. After gold was proclaimed in the Black Hills by Custer's expedition in August 1874, Sheridan's troops actively scouted for and pursued miners bound for the Black Hills during that time when such entry was regarded as illegal. Camp Sheridan's most celebrated interdiction occurred in mid-May 1875 when Mills led two companies of cavalry and a Gatling battery to Antelope Creek, east of present-day Gordon, Nebraska, and captured a Hills-bound mining company led by the notorious promoter John Gordon of Sioux City, Iowa. This was Gordon's second run at the Black

Crazy Horse Grave, October 1877. Doubtless the most profound photograph associated with Camp Sheridan is this one showing the fenced grave of Crazy Horse atop a hill overlooking the camp. Two photographs of the grave are known, both taken by soldier-photographer Charles Howard. This variant is courtesy of Larry Ness, Yankton, South Dakota.



Hills, and he had actually made it to the diggings the previous December where he erected the so-called Gordon Stockade on French Creek, but then was summarily evicted by troops from Fort Laramie. Undeterred, Gordon organized again only to be captured now by Mills, who destroyed the train, watched as its members were escorted to Fort Randall on the Missouri, and incarcerated Gordon at Camp Sheridan before transferring him to Omaha Barracks where he was indicted for violating Indian non-intercourse laws.⁸

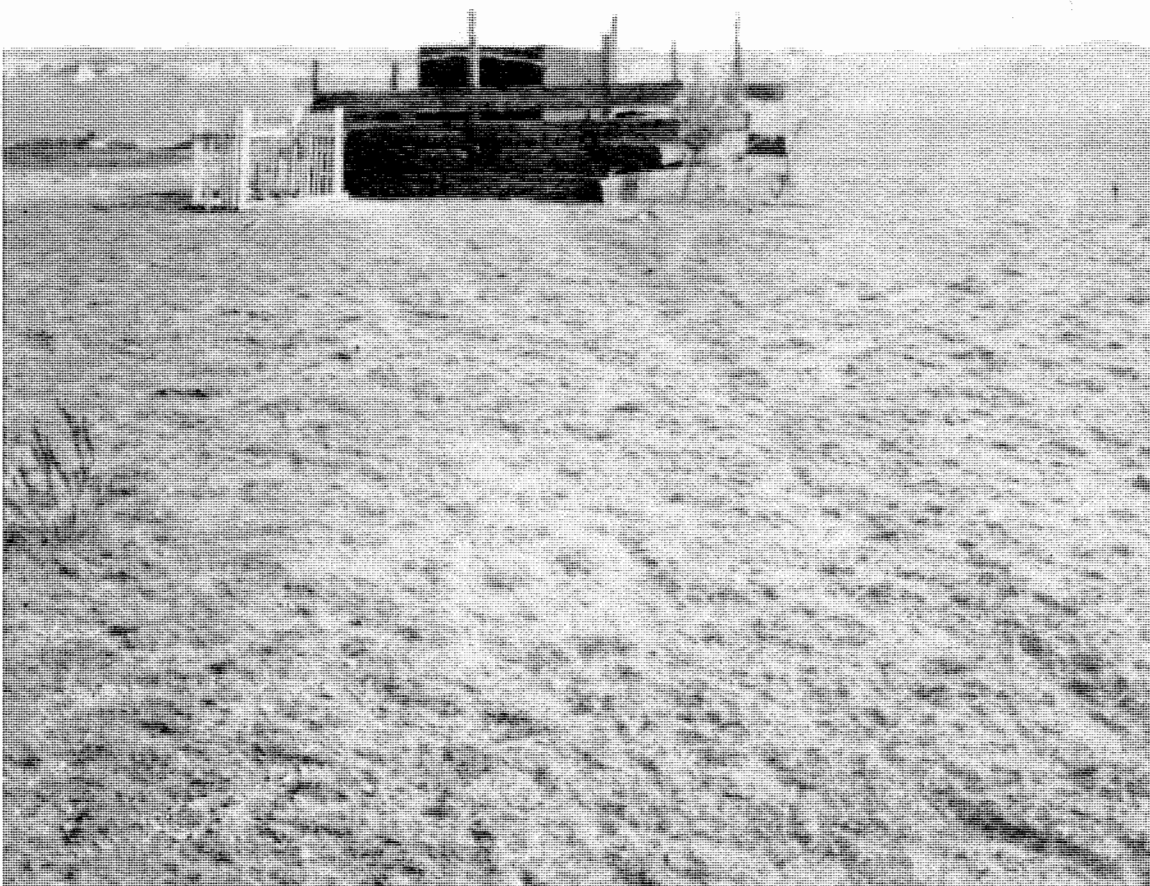
Camp Sheridan welcomed the Newton-Jenney Expedition in October 1875 as it neared the end of a second government survey of the gold country. This expedition had been dispatched to the Hills to confirm gold, found now in “paying quantities,” and their return carried them by way of Sheridan where they were resupplied after five months in the field. The column’s military escort was commanded by Lt. Col. Richard Dodge of the Twenty-third Infantry. A hidebound officer, Dodge found very little to compliment at Camp Sheridan. Although cordially received by Maj. Alexander Chambers, then commanding, and Captain Mills, Dodge confided in his diary that he did not “want to be stationed at this post. It is a poor affair, & surrounded as one would expect by hoards of savages.” Upon visiting the billiard room during his one evening with the garrison, he found it “occupied by a lout of half drunken citizens & soldiers – Came away promptly.” Dodge’s invective was showered on Camp Robinson too. Although there he found the landscape “picturesque in the extreme,” and Capt.

William Jordan “very polite,” Dodge’s camp established one-half mile away was miserable he said, “water bad filled with dead animals, refuse of Indian camps. No wood & no grass. Nothing to interest one or make the post desirable except the Indian & Don’t fancy him.”⁹

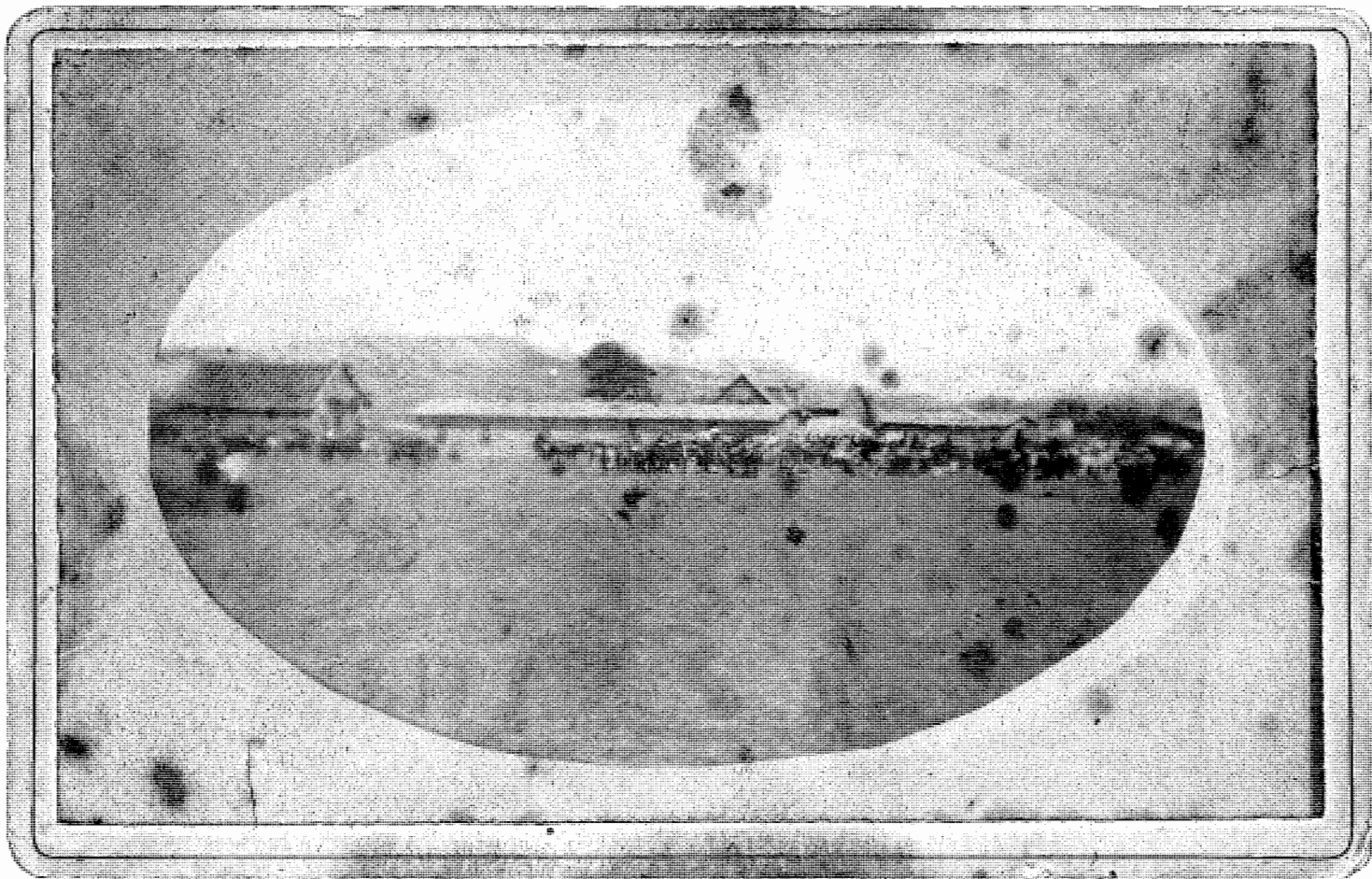
It was plainly evident at these White River posts that the Black Hills and its gold loomed explosively. These garrisons understood the lay of the land. They knew the reservation boundaries. Better than most, they comprehended the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty which worked to protect Indian rights. They were already contending foursquare with the irrepressible lure of gold as they chased, intercepted, and evicted illegal miners. Maybe most importantly, their positions in the proximities of Indian camps and agencies obliged them to look Indian people in the eye day in and day out and they witnessed now the disintegration of relations with the bands. Although Camp Sheridan’s garrison had no direct role in the councils occurring near Camp Robinson between Red Cloud’s and Spotted Tail’s people and government commissioners seeking in September 1875 to acquire the Hills, they certainly knew of the commission’s failure, despite the chiefs’ relative willingness to sell if a price was met and, as Spotted Tail demanded, their people would be cared for, for all time, as long as Indians lived. These troops witnessed, too, the mass defections from the agencies in the spring of 1876 as restrictions were imposed on the sale of arms and ammunition, and as ration shortages occurred, and this occurring in the wake of a largely unheeded ultimatum the previous winter directing the northern bands to submit themselves to their agencies. A great war with the Sioux loomed inevitably.¹⁰

The initial phases of the so-called Great Sioux War were of very little consequence at Camp Sheridan. Its troops rotated to the various campaigns and the garrison, varying now from one to three companies, engaged in forwarding supplies from Robinson, securing communications with that post, chasing cattle thieves preying on agency and garrison stock, and maintaining a vigilance over the agency. Easily the most significant event occurring at Camp Sheridan in 1876 came upon the arrival in July of an army officer to replace Spotted Tail Agent Howard as the army assumed control of this and all the Sioux agencies in the darkest days of the war. This was General Sheridan’s maneuver, resisted at first by the Indian Bureau, but conceded in the wake of the Little Bighorn disaster and enabling him to carry out a policy of arresting, disarming,

Crazy Horse Grave,
October 1877. Another
view by photographer
Charles Howard, courtesy
of the United States
Military Academy.



Crazy Horse's
parents returned
their son's body
to Beaver Creek
where it was
scaffolded
on a hilltop
overlooking
Camp Sheridan.
For some two
months it was
seen by all.



Spotted Tail Agency, circa 1875-77. Warehouses and the day-to-day bustle of agency business dominate this scene at Spotted Tail Agency. The photographer is unknown. Minnesota Historical Society, Negative: 13278

and dismounting the Northern Indians as they reappeared at their agencies, and moreover ensuring the political and social transformations that were the inevitable consequences of this war.¹¹

Two events late in 1876 brought into interesting focus the consistent calm that pervaded the Beaver Creek countryside throughout the life of the agency and its nearby army camp. Despite Spotted Tail's remonstrance against the government in its second attempt to acquire the Black Hills in September—an agreement he ultimately signed, but grudgingly to be sure—General Crook in October anointed him head chief of all the White River Sioux. As Bourke put it, Spotted Tail was “the only important leader who has had the nerve to be our friend.”¹² This, of course, was a terrible personal affront to Red Cloud, and an action ultimately of little consequence politically among the Oglalas and Brulés, but it demonstrated the respect Crook and his officers held for Spotted Tail and the pragmatism and calming influence he exerted over his followers. And in October when General Sheridan ordered the disarming and unhorsing of the agency

people and not just the surrendering Northerners, disarmings and unhorsings occurred at Red Cloud Agency but not at Spotted Tail. Crook did not want to disrupt the calm on Beaver Creek despite incurring General Sheridan's personal wrath for this deference accorded Spotted Tail and the Brulés.

These accommodations should not be misunderstood. Spotted Tail was no pawn. Among his people and the whites, he was a deeply respected warrior of old who fought valiantly at Blue Water Creek in 1855 and was subsequently imprisoned at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for his involvement in that so-called First Sioux War. For some twenty years thereafter Spotted Tail had been a peace advocate, but he never conceded to efforts that weakened his people or his own authority. He was renowned as a hard bargainer with a strong and supple mind and had dealt with presidents, cabinet officers, and generals, often getting the better of the bargain for his people. During this Black Hills crisis Spotted Tail steadfastly opposed the government's outright seizure of the gold country and had worked to cut the best deals possible. Other travails



HOWARD,

Chief issues at Spotted Tail's Agency, Neb.

PHOTO.

awaited him in the near future but through it all officers and agents alike were glad for his friendship and support during these trying times.¹³

Spotted Tail's visibility flickered again in February 1877 when he was invited by Crook to lead a peace mission from Beaver Creek to the camp of his Oglala nephew, Crazy Horse. He carried Crook's assurances of amnesty for acts of the past and that these Indians would be allowed an agency in their own country and not be taken to the Indian Territory, but they would have imposed on them the so-called Rule of 1876 requiring the surrender of arms, ponies, and ammunition. Spotted Tail's pleadings among the Northerners were largely successful. He helped induce the surrenders of Sans Arcs and Miniconjous, and—after a second mission was dispatched, led this

time by Red Cloud—even of Crazy Horse and all of his followers. These surrenders in April and May at the Spotted Tail and Red Cloud agencies, at Col. Nelson A. Miles's Tongue River Cantonment on the Yellowstone, and along the Missouri River brought general closure to the Great Sioux War.¹⁴

As if, however, to put a final stamp on the story of this Sioux war, Spotted Tail Agency and Camp Sheridan figured once more, this time in the tragic arrest and killing of Crazy Horse in September 1877. Crazy Horse's summer at Red Cloud Agency was complicated and heaped with inconsistencies and denials. He observed the cultural sea change that had occurred among the Lakotas in recent years, families driving wagons on ration days, wearing manufactured clothing, raising cattle and chickens,

Spotted Tail Agency Environs, October 1877. This dramatic image shows the broad expanse of Indian camps dotting the margins of the Spotted Tail Agency, with Beaver Creek coursing through the center of the view and the heralded Pine Ridge marking the horizon. The photograph is by Charles Howard and courtesy of the United States Military Academy.

and tending small plots of corn and beans. Having just surrendered his weapons, Crook's agents now wanted him to enlist as a scout, joining hundreds of other Lakotas similarly engaged assisting the army against the Nez Perce Indians. Crazy Horse was promised an opportunity to hunt buffalo in the Powder River Basin, but then was denied. Factions turned against him and predicted to the whites that if rearmed he would not fight the Nez Perce but would turn on the soldiers instead. Crook personally investigated matters at Red Cloud Agency on September 3 and sought to meet Crazy Horse face to face, but when advised by a Lakota confidant that the chief sought to murder him (an outright fabrication as it turned out), Crook instead ordered Crazy Horse's arrest and removal to Fort Marion, Florida.¹⁵

When troops advanced on Crazy Horse's camp on the morning of September 4, they found him gone and learned that he and his wife had fled to Spotted Tail Agency seeking Touch the Clouds' camp. Crazy Horse and the Miniconjou chief Touch the Clouds were old allies and they discussed the inescapable tension at Red Cloud. The two agreed to seek the relocation of Crazy Horse's camp to Spotted Tail Agency and then sought out Jesse Lee of the Ninth Infantry at Camp Sheridan. Lee, now the agent at Spotted Tail, supported this transfer and pledged to use his influence in arranging it, but only after Crazy Horse first returned to Camp Robinson to explain himself in this current matter and the welter of other distortions whirling about. Lee offered to accompany Crazy Horse and assured him that he would not be harmed, and that seemed to calm the sullen warrior. Instead, of course, Crazy Horse returned to his death, a fatal stabbing in the doorway of that camp's guardhouse as he resisted incarceration. The next morning, Crazy Horse's parents, residents at Spotted Tail Agency, returned their son's body to Beaver Creek where it was anointed, wrapped in buckskins and a buffalo robe, and scaffolded, eventually on a hilltop overlooking Camp Sheridan where for some two months it was seen by all.¹⁶

Despite Spotted Tail's unwillingness to ever again relocate his agency, the Brulés and Oglalas were forcibly moved in late October 1877, this time onto the Dakota Reservation and east toward the Missouri River. That effort was a decided failure and the tribesmen moved yet again in the summer of 1878 to lands north and east of Camp Sheridan that became in course the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations. Upon their departures, Nebraska's White River valley was empty of Indians forevermore.

These agency relocations had a profound consequence at Camp Sheridan. When the Brulés and Oglalas settled at Rosebud and Pine Ridge, Crook initially favored retaining Camp Sheridan and abandoning Robinson but that was not supported by General Sheridan, acknowledging that Robinson lay on a direct route to the Black Hills and was already a large and convenient post, while Camp Sheridan was small and had little ground for expansion. The camp was doomed.¹⁷

Meanwhile, Camp Sheridan's miniscule garrison thrived in its relative isolation. A wonderful view of life at this time is provided by the Corbusier family, Captain and Assistant Surgeon William H. Corbusier, wife Fanny, and children, who arrived in late November 1877 just after the Brulés departed. The family adjusted well, weathering three consecutive harsh winters but seemingly genuinely enjoying the summers, the children riding ponies about the grounds and hunting fossils and agates in the bluffs and bottoms, and Fanny planting enormous flower and vegetable gardens that occasionally washed away but when successful yielded geraniums, nasturtiums, and other flowers for the table, and more lettuce, radishes, onions, sweet corn, squash, and tomatoes than could be consumed by the family and guests. Hunting was especially popular, the doctor joining other officers bagging deer, antelope, and game birds of all sorts and in great numbers, especially after the Brulés had relocated.¹⁸


Camp Sheridan's garrison incurred one final brush with history. Throughout the fall of 1878 residents of the Great Plains followed the travails of the Northern Cheyenne Indians who had fled their imposed agency in the Indian Territory vowing to return to the northern plains. These were largely Little Wolf's and Morning Star's people who were, indeed, northerners and staunch friends of the Sioux. In the summer of 1877 before Crazy Horse was killed, they were forcibly relocated from Red Cloud Agency to the Cheyenne Agency in Indian Territory and suffered greatly there. As these fleeing tribesmen now entered Nebraska, troops from army posts along the Union Pacific, on the White River, and even Seventh Cavalry from the newly established Fort Meade northeast of Deadwood maneuvered to intercept them. The Seventh Cavalry staged at Camp Sheridan as did troops from an array of other regiments, and in a period of two weeks Doctor Corbusier dined with forty different officers from these commands. As history tells, the Cheyenne bands fatefully separated after crossing the Union Pacific, Little Wolf

Paul L. Hedren resides in Omaha. The essay is expanded from a presentation given at the 2009 Fort Robinson History Conference. Hedren's eighth book, Great Sioux War Orders of Battle: How the American Army Waged War on the Northern Plains, 1876-1877, is forthcoming from the Arthur H. Clark Company in 2011.

and his followers evading chase in Nebraska's Sandhills, but Morning Star's people running headlong into troops from Camp Robinson, and not far in fact from Camp Sheridan. Fate took the tribesmen to Robinson and that post figured once again in an episode dripping with regrettable renown, the infamous Cheyenne Outbreak.¹⁹

With an expansion soon to occur at the now renamed Fort Robinson, coupled with a zeal to consolidate smaller frontier garrisons at large posts on rail lines or near Indian agencies or reservations, and acknowledging the distance of some 140 miles between Robinson and Rosebud, in June 1879 Congress approved the construction of a Rosebud post, soon to be called Fort Niobrara and located on the Niobrara River in north-central Nebraska some twenty miles south of Rosebud Agency. These actions doomed not only Camp Sheridan but also Fort McPherson, closed in 1880, and Fort Hartsuff, closed in 1881. Sheridan's abandonment was ordered on December 2, 1880. Troops remained until April 1881. Buildings were salvaged that spring, with lumber destined for forts Robinson and Niobrara. Doctor Valentine T. McGillicuddy, agent at Pine Ridge, requested the camp's flagstaff which was dismantled and shipped there. A public auction disposed of the log buildings and miscellaneous lumber and hay. A final acknowledgment of the post's existence occurred in early 1882 when its few burials were removed to the Fort Robinson cemetery.²⁰

Any look at Camp Sheridan

must necessarily close with a final acknowledgment of Spotted Tail, who spent his adult life striving to balance Lakota nationalism with conciliation to the whites. It was wholly on his account that a Brulé agency was established on Beaver Creek in 1874, and that there existed a Camp Sheridan at all. In August 1881, Spotted Tail, now fifty-eight, was murdered near his home at Rosebud Agency, by Crow Dog, a Brulé sub-chief with whom he had had longstanding disputes and who had perhaps imagined himself as head chief of the Brulés. In ironic twists of fate, Crow Dog was acquitted of the murder, the United States Supreme Court ruling that the Dakota courts had no jurisdiction over crimes committed by Indians on Indian reservations, and that Crow Dog anyway had settled the murder by tribal custom when he paid the family blood money for the slaying. Crow Dog never succeeded Spotted Tail, and the government never again recognized a head chief of the Brulés. In 1881, Camp Sheridan *and* Chief Spotted Tail were both gone to history.²¹ 

Camp Sheridan and its Men

A. Units stationed at Camp Sheridan, April 1874 through April 1881²²

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| April-June 1874 | Eighth Infantry, Cos. B, C, H, K Third Cavalry, Co. B |
| July 1874 | Eighth Infantry, Cos. B, C, H, K Ninth Infantry, Cos. D, F, G, K Third Cavalry, Co. B |
| Aug.-Oct. 1874 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. D, F, G, K Third Cavalry, Co. B |
| Nov. 1874 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. F, K Third Cavalry, Cos. B, E |
| Dec. 1874-Mar. 1875 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. F, K Third Cavalry, Co. E |
| April 1875 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. F, K Third Cavalry, Cos. E, M |
| May 1875 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. F, K Second Cavalry, Co. E Third Cavalry, Cos. E, M |
| June 1875 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. F, K Second Cavalry, Co. E Third Cavalry, Cos. E, L, M |
| July-Oct. 1875 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. F, K Second Cavalry, Co. E Third Cavalry, Cos. E, M |
| Nov. 1875 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. B, F, K Second Cavalry, Co. E Third Cavalry, Cos. E, M |
| Dec. 1875-Jan. 1876 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. B, K |
| Feb.-May 1876 | Ninth Infantry, Co. B Third Cavalry, Co. K |
| June 1876 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. B, I Third Cavalry, Co. K |
| July-Sept. 1876 | Ninth Infantry, Cos. B, I |
| Oct. 1876-May 1877 | Third Cavalry, Co. M |
| June-Oct. 1877 | Fourteenth Infantry, Co. C Third Cavalry, Co. M |
| November 1877 | Fourteenth Infantry, Co. C Third Cavalry, Co. G |
| Dec. 1877-Apr. 1880 | Third Cavalry, Co. G |
| May 1880 | Third Cavalry, Co. G Fifth Cavalry, Co. M |
| June 1880 | Fifth Cavalry, Co. M |
| July 1880-Apr. 1881 | Ninth Infantry, Co. E Fifth Cavalry, Co. M |

B. Camp Sheridan's Commanding Officers

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| April-May 1874 | Maj. Thomas S. Dunn, Eighth Infantry |
| July-Aug. 1874 | Capt. Thomas B. Burrowes, Ninth Infantry |
| Sept. 1874-Jan. 1875 | Maj. Edwin F. Townsend, Ninth Infantry |
| Feb.-March 1875 | Capt. Alexander Sutorius, Third Cavalry |
| Apr.-June 1875 | Capt. Anson Mills, Third Cavalry |
| July 1875 | Maj. Alexander Chambers, Fourth Infantry |
| August 1875 | Capt. Anson Mills, Third Cavalry |
| September 1875 | Maj. Alexander Chambers, Fourth Infantry |
| October 1875 | 1 st Lt. William W. Rogers, Ninth Infantry |
| Nov. 1875-June 1876 | Capt. John D. Devin, Ninth Infantry |
| July 1876 | Capt. Frederick Mears, Ninth Infantry |
| Aug.-Sept. 1876 | Capt. John D. Devin, Ninth Infantry |
| October 1876 | 1 st Lt. Augustus C. Paul, Third Cavalry |
| Nov. 1876-Apr. 1877 | Capt. Anson Mills, Third Cavalry |
| May 1877 | 1 st Lt. Jesse M. Lee, Ninth Infantry |
| June-Oct. 1877 | Capt. Daniel W. Burke, Fourteenth Infantry |
| Nov. 1877-Apr. 1879 | Capt. Deane Monahan, Third Cavalry |
| May 1879-Apr. 1880 | Capt. Emmett Crawford, Third Cavalry |
| May-Aug. 1880 | Capt. John B. Babcock, Fifth Cavalry |
| Sept.-Nov. 1880 | 1 st Lt. Charles H. Watts, Fifth Cavalry |
| Dec. 1880-Apr. 1881 | Maj. William P. Gentry, Ninth Infantry |

C. Camp Sheridan's Doctors

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| April-Sept. 1874 | Charles V. Petteys, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| September 1874 | John Ridgely, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| Oct. 1874-April 1875 | Charles V. Petteys, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| May 1875 | Charles V. Petteys, Acting Assistant Surgeon Adoniram J. Gray, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| June 1875 | Adoniram J. Gray, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| July 1875 | Charles V. Petteys, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| August 1875 | Charles V. Petteys, Acting Assistant Surgeon Adoniram J. Gray, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| September 1875 | Adoniram J. Gray, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| October 1875 | Capt. Marshall W. Wood, Assistant Surgeon Charles V. Petteys, Acting Assistant Surgeon Adoniram J. Gray, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| November 1875 | Capt. Marshall W. Wood, Assistant Surgeon |
| Dec. 1875-Feb. 1876 | Capt. Marshall W. Wood, Assistant Surgeon Charles V. Petteys, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| Mar.-Sept. 1876 | Capt. Marshall W. Wood, Assistant Surgeon |
| Oct. 1876-Oct. 1877 | Capt. Egon A. Koerper, Assistant Surgeon |
| Nov. 1877-Mar. 1880 | Capt. William H. Corbusier, Assistant Surgeon |
| April-Sept. 1880 | Robert B. Grimes, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| October 1880 | Capt. Henry M. Cronkhite, Assistant Surgeon Robert B. Grimes, Acting Assistant Surgeon |
| Nov. 1880-April 1881 | Capt. Henry M. Cronkhite, Assistant Surgeon |

NOTES

¹ Charles J. Kappler, *Indian Affairs. Laws and Treaties*. (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1904; reprint ed., Mattituck, N. Y.: Amereon House, 1972), 999.

² George E. Hyde, *Spotted Tail's Folk: A History of the Brulé Sioux* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961), 186-87; Kingsley M. Bray, *Crazy Horse, A Lakota Life* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006), 365; James C. Olson, *Red Cloud and the Sioux Problem* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1965), map opp. 270.

³ Thomas R. Buecker, *Fort Robinson and the American West, 1874-1889* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1999), 6-10; Thomas R. Buecker, "History of Camp Sheridan, Nebraska," *Periodical, Journal of America's Military Past* 22 (1995), 55-57; Bray, *Crazy Horse*, 176; Douglas C. McChristian, *Fort Laramie, Military Bastion of the High Plains* (Norman: Arthur H. Clark Company, 2008), 342-46.

⁴ Buecker, "History of Camp Sheridan," 59-60; Camp Sheridan Post Returns, April, September, 1874, Microfilm Publication 617, roll 1163, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

⁵ Buecker, "History of Camp Sheridan," 60-61.

⁶ Anson Mills to George Ruggles, May 2, 1875, Letters Received, Department of the Platte, Record Group 98, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., copy on file, Fort Robinson Museum, Crawford, Nebraska; Charles M. Robinson III, ed., *The Diaries of John Gregory Bourke, Volume Two, July 29, 1876-April 7, 1878* (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2005), 243; Anson Mills, *My Story* (Washington, D.C.: Press of Byron S. Adams, 1918), 158.

⁷ Buecker, "History of Camp Sheridan," 61-62.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 64; Mills, *My Story*, 156-57.

⁹ Wayne R. Kime, ed., *The Black Hills Journals of Colonel Richard Irving Dodge* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996), 11, 237-39.

¹⁰ Olson, *Red Cloud and the Sioux Problem*, 208-9; Buecker, "History of Camp Sheridan," 66.

¹¹ Buecker, "History of Camp Sheridan," 67.

¹² Robinson III, ed., *The Diaries of John Gregory Bourke*, 2:300.

¹³ R. Eli Paul, *Blue Water Creek and the First Sioux War, 1854-1856* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004), 103, 105, 155-56; Oliver Knight, "War or Peace: The Anxious Wait for Crazy Horse," in R. Eli Paul, ed., *The Nebraska Indian Wars Reader, 1865-1877* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1998), 164; George E. Hyde, *Red Cloud's Folk, A History of the Oglala Sioux Indians* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1957), 286.

¹⁴ Knight, "War or Peace," 164-75.

¹⁵ Bray, *Crazy Horse*, 300

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 362-72, 392-95; Jeffrey V. Pearson, "Tragedy at Red Cloud Agency: The Surrender, Confinement, and Death of Crazy Horse," *Montana The Magazine of Western History* 55 (Summer 2005), 22-23; "Gen. Jesse M. Lee's Account of the Killing of Chief Crazy Horse at Fort Robinson, Nebr.," in E. A. Brininstool, ed., *Crazy Horse, The Invincible Ogalalla Sioux Chief* (Los Angeles: Wetzel Publishing, Co., 1949), 28-30.

¹⁷ "Copies of papers relative to the abandonment of Camp Sheridan, Nebr., ordered to take effect May 1, 1881, together with special report as to the number and condition of buildings, &c.,

at that post." 46th Cong., 3d Sess., Sen. Ex. Doc. 33, February 4, 1881, 2.

¹⁸ Patricia Y. Stallard, ed., *Fanny Dunbar Corbusier: Recollections of Her Army Life, 1869-1908* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2003), 80-84.

¹⁹ William T. Corbusier, "Camp Sheridan, Nebraska," *Nebraska History* 42 (March 1961), 43; John H. Monnett, *Tell Them We are Going Home: The Odyssey of the Northern Cheyennes* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2001), 109-14.

²⁰ "Copies of papers relative to the abandonment of Camp Sheridan, Nebr.," 4-5; Buecker, "History of Camp Sheridan," 70-71.

²¹ George E. Hyde, *A Sioux Chronicle* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), 63-66; Richmond L. Clow, "The Anatomy of a Lakota Shooting: Crow Dog and Spotted Tail, 1879-1881," *South Dakota History* 28 (Winter 1998): 209-27; Richmond L. Clow, "A Dream Deferred: Crow Dog's Territorial Trials and the Push for Statehood," *South Dakota History* 37 (Spring 2007), 46-73.

²² This and subsequent drawn from Camp Sheridan Post Returns, April 1874-April 1881.