

8-1142

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Cheyenne River Agency,
Cheyenne Agency, S. D.,
April 12, 1926.

Mr. J. A. Shoemaker, Secretary,
National Custer Memorial Assn.,
Billings, Montana.

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

I am in receipt of your favor of April 5,
and agreeable with your request list below the living
Indians of this reservation who actually participated
in the Custer Battle of 1876.

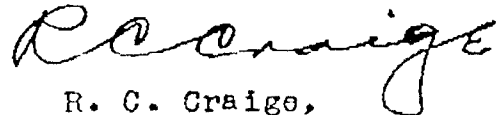
| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Useful Heart | Stands Straddle ^A |
| ✓ Moses Hawk Bear | ✓ Moses Straight Head ^A |
| ✓ Raised Him | ✓ Shell Necklace |
| ✓ Elias Elk Head [✓] | ✓ Puts On His Shoes |
| ✓ Bad Warrior | ✓ Charles Corn [✓] |
| ✓ Brave | ✓ Lone Eagle ^A |
| ✓ Combing | ✓ First Eagle |
| ✓ Scar Leg | ✓ James Spotted Eagle |
| ✓ Swift Bear | ✓ Bear Chasing ^A |
| ✓ Red Bird | ✓ Ray Eagle Chasing [✓] |
| ✓ Clown [✓] | ✓ Joseph Eagle Chasing [✓] |
| ✓ White Hawk | ✓ Brown Wolf |
| ✓ Little Dog | ✓ Did Not Go Home [✓] |
| ✓ Standing Elk | ✓ Lazy White Bull [✓] |
| ✓ Horseshoe | ✓ Fine Weather |
| ✓ Runs The Enemy | ✓ Black Body |
| ✓ Spotted Rabbit [✓] | ✓ Iron People [✓] |
| ✓ Eagle Thunder | ✓ Swift Dog [✓] |
| ✓ Full Stomach | ✓ George Red Horse [✓] |
| ✓ Joseph Warrior | ✓ Black-Bull [✓] |
| ✓ John Crow | ✓ Black Tongue |
| ✓ Henry Bear Thundor ^A | ✓ Paul Fat Clown |

We do not have any record in this office to show the names of the Indians of this reservation who took part in that battle but I have obtained the foregoing list from several Indians who took part and I believe that it is fairly accurate. Some of the older men are now widowers but the majority of them have wives and if it is the plan of your association to have a reunion of these old warriors on the battlefield, I suggest that you arrange also to have their wives accompany them.

I do not know whether it is a plan of your association to have the Superintendents of the several Sioux reservations accompany their people or not but if such is the plan, please accept my assurance that I shall be glad to do everything in my power to make this gathering successful in every way. For your information I might state that I also have a request from Commissioner Burke to furnish him with a list of these Indians and that I am today furnishing him the same names as given you herein.

Wishing you all the success that such a movement as this deserves, I am,

Very truly yours,



R. C. Craigo,
Superintendent.

RCC/WM

5-1142

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Cheyenne River Agency,
Cheyenne Agency, S. D.,
April 21, 1926.

Mr. J. A. Shoemaker, Secretary,
National Custer Memorial Ass'n.,
Billings, Montana.

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

Since writing my letter of April 12, in which I gave you a list of the living Indians of this reservation who participated in the Custer battle of 1876, I have had the opportunity to check over the same with some of the Indians living on the west side of the reservation and I now believe it advisable to eliminate from the list as given you the names of Elias Elk Head, Clown, Swift Dog and Blackbull.

The Indians of the west side of the reservation, where most of the Custer battle survivors live, are positive that these four men did not actually participate in the fight, giving as their reason that they were only boys from ten to twelve years of age and too young to take part. I have checked these statements against the records of this office and find them to be true. There is no doubt but that these four men were present at the time of the battle but they were in the Indian camp on the opposite side of the river from the battle and did not actually take any part in it. For this reason I believe that the names of these four men should be eliminated from the list as previously submitted, leaving forty persons whom I am satisfied, from the very best information that I can obtain, actually took part in the battle.

Very truly yours,

R. C. Craige
R. C. Craige,
Superintendent.

RCC:GL

6-1142

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Cheyenne River Agency,
Cheyenne Agency, S. D.,
May 21, 1926.

Mr. J. A. Shoemaker, Secretary,
National Custer Memorial Ass'n.,
Billings, Mont.

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

Agreeable with your letter of May 13, I have carefully considered the forty living survivors of the Custer Battle now on this reservation and submit the following names of those whom I believe may be able to make the trip to the battle field:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Raised Him | Shell Necklace |
| Bad Warrior | Puts On His Shoes |
| Combing | ✓ Charles Corn |
| Scar Leg | First Eagle |
| Swift Bear | James Spotted Eagle |
| Little Dog | ✓ Ray Eagle Chasing |
| Spotted Rabbit | ✓ Joseph Eagle Chasing |
| Eagle Thunder | Brown Wolf |
| Full Stomach | Did Not Go Home |
| Joseph Warrior | Lazy White Bull |
| Moses Straight Head | Black Body |
| George Red Horse | |

It will be noted that this list includes twenty-three names but because of the extreme age of these old braves, I believe that at least three of them will eliminate themselves by the time it is necessary to start for the Battle Field. It was not a difficult matter to remove seventeen from the list because there are a few who do not want to go, some of them are so extremely old that it would be really dangerous for them to undertake such a strenuous trip and a few of them, at least three, are crippled and not at all active.

The most of the twenty who will go will start from Dupree, a few from Eagle Butte, and the remainder from LaPlant. I have made inquiries and have learned that the one way full fare from Dupree, to the Crow Agency, is

Page 2 missing

R. C. Cramer, Supt.