

Annotated Bibliography: The Crows and the Little Big Horn, 150 Years Later

The Scouts and the Battle

*An Annotated Bibliography of Sources on Crow History, Culture,
and the Battle of the Little Bighorn*

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This annotated bibliography assembles fifty-two sources central to the study of the Apsáalooke (Crow) people's role as military scouts during the Great Sioux War of 1876, their broader cultural and political history, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn. As we approach the sesquicentennial of that pivotal engagement, renewed scholarly attention has been directed toward the Indigenous participants whose perspectives have too often been subordinated to the Custer narrative. The sources collected here span more than a century of publication—from late nineteenth-century firsthand accounts to twenty-first-century monographs and forthcoming works—and include books, journal articles, edited primary-source collections, theses, symposium papers, archival holdings, and photographic collections.

The bibliography is organized alphabetically by author surname. Each entry is presented in Chicago Notes & Bibliography format and accompanied by a summary of the work's content and contribution, a source-type classification, a brief credibility assessment, and a note on the work's relevance to Crow history, Custer studies, or both. Together, these sources constitute a foundational reading list for any scholar, student, or informed reader seeking to understand the Crow Nation's complex engagement with the United States Army, the strategic and human dimensions of the 1876 campaign, and the enduring legacy of the Battle of the Little Bighorn as seen through Apsáalooke eyes.

As of this Symposium, there are literally thousands of books and articles written about this battle and the people involved. Less than 400 tell of the scouts employed by the U.S. Army regardless of tribe. And, sadly, most of those have misaligned, misquoted, fabricated, and condemned them as to their service. Additionally, much of that service has been relegated to footnotes. Editorial and creative license, cultural bias, a lack of understanding of what was being said, and preconceived battle "facts," all led to the scouts' stories not being more prevalent. One historian accurately described this noting "...we really don't know if we are presented with the actual response of the individual scout, for we deal always with someone's notes of someone else's interpretations. At this point, all we can do is remember that we may not be dealing with the answers given to the questions asked." There is a larger bibliography as part of these resources that

addresses Crow history and culture especially about the times when “War was not the concern of a class nor even of the male sex, but of the whole population, from cradle to grave” and later, “when the buffalo went away.”

Bibliography

Albright, Peggy, with Commentaries on the Photographs by Crow Tribal Members Barney Old Coyote, Jr., Mardell Hogan Plainfeather, and Dean Curtis Bear Claw. Foreword by Joanna Cohan Scherer. *Crow Indian Photographer: The Work of Richard Throssel*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997.

SUMMARY: This volume provides the first book-length study of Richard Throssel (1882–1933), a photographer of Cree heritage who was adopted into the Crow Nation and lived on the Crow Reservation from 1902 to 1911. Albright combines biographical detail with a comprehensive presentation of Throssel's more than one thousand photographs, which constitute a visual census of early twentieth-century Crow life. The inclusion of commentaries by contemporary Crow tribal members—Barney Old Coyote, Jr., Mardell Hogan Plainfeather, and Dean Curtis Bear Claw—adds interpretive layers grounded in community knowledge and cultural continuity.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Published by a major university press with a foreword by Smithsonian anthropologist Joanna Cohan Scherer, the volume reflects rigorous scholarship and is enriched by direct Crow participation in the interpretation of the photographic record.

RELEVANCE: Essential for understanding Crow material culture, social organization, and daily life in the reservation period, providing a visual baseline for the post-Little Bighorn era and a model for collaborative scholarship with Indigenous communities.

Bauerle, Phenocia, ed. *The Way of the Warrior: Stories of the Crow People*. Compiled and Translated by Henry Old Coyote and Barney Old Coyote Jr. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003.

SUMMARY: This edited collection presents traditional Crow warrior narratives compiled and translated by Henry Old Coyote and Barney Old Coyote Jr., two respected Apsáalooke cultural authorities. The stories illuminate the warrior ethos that shaped Crow society for centuries, detailing acts of bravery, honor, and sacrifice within the framework of Plains Indian intertribal warfare. The volume preserves oral traditions that might otherwise have been lost and makes them accessible to a wider scholarly audience.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: Published by the University of Nebraska Press, a leading publisher of Native American studies, and compiled by Crow cultural insiders, the work carries strong authority in both academic and community-based knowledge traditions.

RELEVANCE: Provides the cultural and philosophical context necessary for understanding why Crow men chose to serve as scouts—their warrior tradition was not merely martial but deeply spiritual and tied to clan and tribal identity.

Big Man, Jr., Alden. "Curley: Crow Scout for Custer." Master's thesis, University of New Mexico, July 2001.

SUMMARY: This master's thesis offers a detailed biographical study of Curley (Ashishishe), the young Crow scout who became one of the most famous—and most debated—figures associated with the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Big Man, a Crow researcher, examines Curley's life, his service with Custer, and the contested question of what he witnessed during the final engagement. The thesis draws on both published sources and Crow oral traditions, offering an Indigenous perspective on a figure often misrepresented in the historical literature.

SOURCE TYPE: Thesis/Dissertation

CREDIBILITY: As an academic thesis completed at the University of New Mexico, the work meets scholarly standards of research and argumentation. Big Man's identity as a Crow researcher provides access to community knowledge and perspectives not available to outside scholars.

RELEVANCE: Directly addresses one of the most contentious questions in Little Bighorn studies—Curley's role and testimony—from a Crow perspective, making it indispensable for any study of the Crow scouts.

Big Man, Jr., Alden. *Curley: A Brave Man of the Crow Nation. To Be Published. Paragon Agency.*

SUMMARY: This forthcoming work expands upon Big Man's earlier thesis research to present a full-length biography of the Crow scout Curley. It is anticipated that the book will incorporate additional oral history, family records, and archival materials to provide the most comprehensive account of Curley's life yet produced. The work promises to center the Crow perspective in recounting the scout's experiences before, during, and after the 1876 campaign.

SOURCE TYPE: Forthcoming Work

CREDIBILITY: Building on the scholarly foundation of Big Man's master's thesis and his standing as a Crow community researcher, this book is expected to be a significant contribution. As a forthcoming work, its final content and publication details remain to be confirmed.

RELEVANCE: Will fill a long-standing gap in Little Bighorn literature: a book-length biography of Curley written by a Crow author, promising to correct decades of misinterpretation and fabrication surrounding the scout's testimony.

Bradley, Lt. James H. Edited by Edgar I. Stewart and a Foreword by Paul L. Hedren. *The March of the Montana Column: A Prelude to the Custer Disaster.* Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961.

SUMMARY: This volume presents the journal and field observations of Lieutenant James H. Bradley, who served as chief of scouts for Colonel John Gibbon's Montana Column during the 1876 campaign. Bradley's account provides a day-by-day record of the column's march down the Yellowstone and its interactions with Crow scouts, who served as the primary reconnaissance force for the command. Bradley was killed at the Battle of the Big Hole in 1877, making this journal a primary document of singular importance.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Published by the University of Oklahoma Press and edited by the noted Custer scholar Edgar I. Stewart, this is a carefully prepared primary source. Bradley's direct participation in the events gives the account unimpeachable firsthand authority.

RELEVANCE: Bradley's journal is the most detailed contemporary account of the Crow scouts' service with Gibbon's column and provides essential context for understanding how the scouts were recruited, employed, and regarded by the officers they served.

Calloway, Colin. "The Only Way Open to Us: The Crow Struggle for Survival in the Nineteenth Century." *North Dakota History*, Volume 53 (Summer 1986): 24-34.

SUMMARY: Calloway examines the strategic calculations that drove Crow political and military decisions in the nineteenth century, arguing that alliance with the United States was not a capitulation but a deliberate survival strategy adopted in the face of relentless Lakota and Cheyenne pressure on Crow territory. The article situates the Crow decision to scout for the Army within the broader context of intertribal geopolitics and territorial defense.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Published in a respected state historical journal, the article reflects the work of Colin Calloway, a distinguished historian of Native American history who later held an endowed chair at Dartmouth College. His analysis is well-documented and widely cited.

RELEVANCE: Foundational for understanding the Crow scouts' motivations in 1876—not as passive instruments of U.S. policy but as strategic actors defending Crow interests against traditional enemies.

Calloway, Colin G. "Swordbearer and the 'Crow Outbreak,' 1887." *Montana, The Magazine of Western History* 36, no. 4: 38-51.

SUMMARY: This article examines the 1887 Crow disturbance centered on the young warrior Wraps His Tail, known to whites as Swordbearer, who led a brief resistance against agency authority on the Crow Reservation. Calloway analyzes the incident's causes in the context of post-reservation tensions, government mismanagement, and the frustrations of young Crow men denied traditional outlets for warrior achievement. The episode ended with Swordbearer's death at the hands of Crow police, an event that divided the community.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Published in *Montana, The Magazine of Western History*, one of the premier regional history journals in the American West, the article meets high scholarly standards and benefits from Calloway's extensive expertise in Native American history.

RELEVANCE: Illustrates the tensions within Crow society in the decade following the Little Bighorn, demonstrating that the alliance with the Army did not shield the Crows from the destructive impacts of reservation policy.

Carroll, John M., ed. I. *Varnum: The Autobiographical Reminiscences of Custer's Chief of Scouts*. Glendale, California: Arthur Clark and Company, 1982.

SUMMARY: This volume presents the autobiographical reminiscences of Lieutenant Charles A. Varnum, who served as Custer's chief of scouts at the Little Bighorn. Varnum's account details his direct interactions with the Crow and Arikara scouts, including the critical reconnaissance from

the Crow's Nest observation point on the morning of June 25, 1876. His recollections provide an officer's perspective on the scouts' performance and the decisions that preceded the battle.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: Published by the Arthur H. Clark Company, a prestigious publisher of Western Americana, and edited by the prolific Custer bibliographer John M. Carroll. Varnum's account is a primary source of high reliability, though filtered through decades of memory.

RELEVANCE: Critical for understanding the relationship between Varnum and the Crow scouts, particularly the events at the Crow's Nest where scouts first sighted the massive Lakota-Cheyenne encampment.

Carroll, John M., ed. *The Teepee Book: Part Two*. New York: Sol Lewis, 1974.

SUMMARY: This reprint edition reproduces the second part of *The Teepee Book*, a periodical originally published in Sheridan, Wyoming, during 1915–1916. The compilation includes early interviews, recollections, and documentary material related to the Battle of the Little Bighorn and the frontier military experience, gathered at a time when many participants and witnesses were still living. Carroll's editorial work makes these scarce primary materials accessible to modern researchers.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: Carroll was a respected bibliographer and collector of Custeriana, and the primary materials reproduced here have significant documentary value despite the informal nature of the original publication.

RELEVANCE: Contains early accounts and interviews, including material related to Crow and other Indian participants, that predate the institutionalization of the Custer narrative and preserve details absent from later, more polished accounts.

Church, Robert. "Did Custer Believe His Scouts?" Fifth CBHMA Annual Symposium, 1991, 61–68.

SUMMARY: Church's symposium paper investigates the critical question of whether Custer heeded the intelligence provided by his Crow and Arikara scouts in the hours preceding the battle. Drawing on testimony from Varnum, the scouts themselves, and other officers, Church examines the morning of June 25 when the scouts reported the enormous size of the village from the Crow's Nest but were apparently not fully believed. The paper explores how this failure of communication may have influenced Custer's tactical decisions.

SOURCE TYPE: Symposium Paper

CREDIBILITY: Presented at the Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association (CBHMA) annual symposium, a respected venue for Little Bighorn scholarship that attracts serious researchers and historians. The paper engages directly with primary sources.

RELEVANCE: Directly addresses the pivotal relationship between Custer and his Crow scouts, exploring a decision point that may have been decisive in the outcome of the battle.

Coffeen, Herbert A. "Recollections of a Famous Fight: Told by White Swan through an Interpreter." *The Teepee Book*. Sheridan, Wyoming (November–December 1915): 26–29.

SUMMARY: This brief but significant article presents the recollections of White Swan (Bílaachia), one of the six Crow scouts who accompanied Custer's Seventh Cavalry to the Little Bighorn. Communicated through an interpreter and recorded by Coffeen in Sheridan, Wyoming, White Swan's account describes his participation in the valley fight under Major Reno, where he was severely wounded. The narrative, published just three years before White Swan's death in 1918, is among the earliest recorded firsthand Crow scout testimonies.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: As a near-contemporary interview with a direct participant, the account carries strong primary-source authority. The mediation through an interpreter introduces the possibility of translation imprecision, a common limitation in early Native testimony.

RELEVANCE: One of the rare firsthand Crow scout narratives of the battle, essential for reconstructing the experience of the scouts in Reno's command during the valley fight and retreat.

Coffeen, Herbert A. *The Custer Battle Book: A Reflection Book*. Carlton Press, Inc., 1964.

SUMMARY: Coffeen's volume compiles his personal reflections, research, and accumulated knowledge about the Battle of the Little Bighorn drawn from decades of proximity to the battlefield region and conversations with participants and witnesses. Based in Sheridan, Wyoming, Coffeen had access to local informants, including Crow participants, and his work preserves oral accounts and regional perspectives that might otherwise have been lost.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Published by a small press, the work lacks the scholarly apparatus of academic publications, but Coffeen's long familiarity with the region and its people lends the account value as a repository of local knowledge and oral tradition.

RELEVANCE: Preserves material from individuals with direct or near-direct connections to the battle, including Crow perspectives gathered in the Sheridan, Wyoming, area during the early twentieth century.

Cowdrey, Michael. "Crows Who Scouted for Custer." *Greasy Grass*, Volume 14 (May 1998): 39–44.

SUMMARY: Cowdrey's article provides a focused study of the individual Crow scouts who served with Custer's Seventh Cavalry at the Little Bighorn. The piece examines the identities, backgrounds, and specific roles of the six scouts—White Man Runs Him, Goes Ahead, Hairy Moccasin, Curley, White Swan, and Half Yellow Face—situating each within Crow society and tracing their service during the 1876 campaign.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Published in *Greasy Grass*, the journal of the Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association, a specialized publication respected among Little Bighorn researchers. Cowdrey is a recognized authority on Plains Indian material culture and history.

RELEVANCE: Provides the most concise and focused prosopographical treatment of the six Crow scouts who rode with Custer, making it a valuable quick reference for researchers.

Cumin, Calvin B. *The Swordbearer Incident*. El Segundo, California: Upton & Sons, Publishers, 2019.

SUMMARY: Cumin presents a detailed account of the 1887 Swordbearer incident on the Crow Reservation, in which the young warrior Wraps His Tail (Swordbearer) challenged agency authority and provoked a military response. The book examines the episode's origins in reservation-era frustrations, the sequence of events leading to Swordbearer's death, and the aftermath for Crow-government relations. The study provides extensive primary-source documentation of an episode often reduced to a footnote in broader histories.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Published by Upton & Sons, a specialized press known for meticulous primary-source publications on frontier military history. The focused nature of the study allows for thorough documentary coverage of the incident.

RELEVANCE: Illuminates post-Little Bighorn Crow history and demonstrates that the Crow-Army alliance was fraught with tension, contradiction, and tragedy despite the cooperative relationship of 1876.

Dixon, Joseph K. *The Vanishing Race: The Last Great Indian Council.* Garden City, New Jersey: Doubleday, Page and Company, 1913. Reprinted by The Rio Grande Press, Inc., Glorieta, New Mexico, 1973.

SUMMARY: Dixon documents the 1909 gathering of tribal leaders from across the northern Plains at the Little Bighorn battlefield, organized by Rodman Wanamaker. The volume includes photographs, speeches, and recorded testimony from Native participants, including Crow elders, captured during what was conceived as a valedictory council of the "vanishing" Indian nations. While the framing reflects early twentieth-century romantic racialism, the recorded statements and photographs preserve irreplaceable firsthand accounts and images.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: The work must be read critically given its "vanishing race" ideology, a framework rejected by modern scholarship. However, the primary materials it preserves—particularly the photographs and transcribed speeches—remain valuable documentary resources when used with appropriate caution.

RELEVANCE: Contains rare testimony and imagery from Crow participants and their contemporaries gathered at the battlefield site itself, providing a unique window into how the battle was remembered by Indigenous peoples in the early twentieth century.

Donahue, Michael N. *Drawing Battle Lines: The Map Testimony of Custer's Last Fight. Battle of the Little Big Horn Series, Volume VIII.* El Segundo, California: Upton and Sons, Publishers, 2008.

SUMMARY: Donahue undertakes a comprehensive analysis of the maps and cartographic testimony produced by participants in and investigators of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The volume reproduces and critically examines maps drawn by officers, scouts, and others, using their spatial representations to reconstruct troop movements, terrain features, and tactical decisions. Scout testimony rendered in map form provides a visual complement to verbal accounts of the engagement.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Published as part of the Upton and Sons Battle of the Little Big Horn Series, a respected specialized series. Donahue's cartographic approach offers a distinctive analytical methodology that cross-references visual and textual evidence.

RELEVANCE: Maps drawn by or informed by scout testimony—including that of Crow scouts—are essential for understanding spatial dimensions of the battle and evaluating competing reconstructions of events.

Donahue, Michael N. "Crow Revisionism and Custer's Last Battle." *Research Review*, Volume 30 (2016): 22.

SUMMARY: In this article, Donahue examines how modern Crow perspectives on the Battle of the Little Bighorn have evolved and, in some cases, been revised in light of new scholarship, changing community attitudes, and the recovery of previously overlooked testimony. The piece engages with the tension between traditional Crow accounts of the scouts' role and revisionist interpretations that have emerged in both academic and popular literature.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Published in the *Research Review*, the journal of the Little Big Horn Associates, a specialized publication serving the community of serious Little Bighorn researchers.

RELEVANCE: Directly addresses historiographical shifts in how the Crow scouts' story is told and interpreted, making it essential reading for understanding the evolving scholarly landscape around the sesquicentennial.

Fitzgerald, Michael Owen. Introduction by Fred Vogt. *Yellowtail: Crow Medicine Man and Sun Dance Chief. An Autobiography. As told to Michael Owen Fitzgerald.* Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991.

SUMMARY: This as-told-to autobiography presents the life and spiritual teachings of Thomas Yellowtail (1903–1993), a Crow medicine man and Sun Dance chief who was one of the last traditional spiritual leaders of the Apsáalooke. Yellowtail's narrative covers his childhood in the early reservation period, his spiritual calling, the revival and practice of the Sun Dance among the Crows, and his reflections on Crow identity and cultural survival. The work is notable for its detailed treatment of Crow ceremonial life.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Published by the University of Oklahoma Press, a leading press in Native American studies. As an autobiography narrated by a recognized spiritual authority, the work carries the weight of direct cultural testimony, though the collaborative authorial process should be noted.

RELEVANCE: Provides essential context for understanding Crow spirituality and cultural continuity—the deeper world from which the scouts came and to which their descendants have maintained connection across the century and a half since the battle.

Frey, Rodney. *The World of the Crow Indians: As Driftwood Lodges.* Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987.

SUMMARY: Frey presents an ethnographic study of Crow culture and worldview, drawing on extensive fieldwork and relationships within the Crow community. The title metaphor—"as driftwood lodges"—evokes the Crow understanding of community as a gathering of individuals

brought together like driftwood on a river, each contributing to the whole. The work covers social organization, kinship, ceremonial life, the clan system, and the continuing vitality of Crow cultural traditions in the modern era.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: A well-regarded academic ethnography published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Frey's work is informed by sustained engagement with Crow people and is widely cited in Apsáalooke studies.

RELEVANCE: Indispensable for understanding the cultural framework within which the Crow scouts lived and made decisions—clan obligations, warrior values, and the collective ethos that shaped their service in 1876.

Gibbon, Colonel John. "Last Summer's Expedition Against the Sioux." *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, Volume II, Number 1 (April 1877): 271–304.

SUMMARY: Writing less than a year after the campaign, Colonel John Gibbon provides a firsthand account of the Montana Column's operations during the summer of 1876. The article covers the march down the Yellowstone, the employment of Crow scouts, the discovery of the Custer battlefield, and the rescue of Reno's beleaguered command. As a commanding officer's near-contemporary narrative, it offers a senior military perspective on the campaign's planning, execution, and catastrophic outcome.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: As a firsthand account by the commanding officer of the Montana Column, published in a contemporary periodical, this is a primary source of the highest order. Its proximity to events enhances its value, though Gibbon's perspective naturally reflects his own command's interests.

RELEVANCE: Provides direct evidence of the Crow scouts' service with Gibbon's column and their role in the broader strategic framework of the three-pronged 1876 campaign.

Gibbon, Colonel John. "Hunting Sitting Bull." *American Catholic Quarterly Review*, Volume II, Number 3 (October 1877): 665–694.

SUMMARY: This second installment of Gibbon's campaign narrative continues his account of the 1876 operations, focusing on the pursuit of the hostile Lakota and Cheyenne forces after the Little Bighorn disaster. The article provides additional detail on the Montana Column's movements, the aftermath of the battle, and the frustrations of the inconclusive campaign that followed. Gibbon's observations on the terrain, logistics, and tactical challenges complement his earlier article and together form the most complete contemporary officer's narrative of the Montana Column's experience.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Same high credibility as the companion article above—a firsthand officer's account published within months of the events described, lending it strong documentary authority.

RELEVANCE: Extends the record of the Crow scouts' service beyond the battle itself and into the post-battle campaign, including the continued role of Crow scouts and the Army's attempts to pursue Sitting Bull.

Graham, W. A., ed. *The Custer Myth: A Source Book of Custeriana*. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books, 1953.

SUMMARY: Graham's landmark compilation brings together a vast array of primary and secondary source materials related to the Battle of the Little Bighorn and the Custer legend. The volume includes officers' testimony, enlisted men's accounts, Indian narratives, contemporary newspaper reports, and analytical essays, organized thematically to allow researchers to compare conflicting accounts. Fred Dustin's comprehensive bibliography, included as an appendix, was for decades the standard bibliographic reference for Custer studies.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: Universally regarded as one of the foundational reference works in Little Bighorn studies. The *New York Times* called it an indispensable source book, and it remains a starting point for serious Custer research more than seventy years after publication.

RELEVANCE: Contains numerous accounts touching on the Crow scouts, including Indian testimony and officers' recollections of scout activities, making it essential for cross-referencing Crow scout narratives against other participants' accounts.

Gray, John S. *Centennial Campaign: The Sioux War of 1876*. Fort Collins, Colorado: Old Army Press, 1976.

SUMMARY: Gray provides a comprehensive operational history of the entire 1876 Sioux War campaign, placing the Battle of the Little Bighorn within the broader strategic context of the three-column convergence. The work is distinguished by Gray's pioneering use of time-motion analysis to reconstruct the movements of military units and Indian forces, producing what was then the most detailed chronological reconstruction of the campaign. The roles of all scout contingents—Crow, Arikara, and Shoshone—are addressed within the operational narrative.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Gray is regarded as one of the most rigorous analytical historians of the Little Bighorn. His time-motion methodology set a new standard for reconstructive battle studies and his conclusions remain widely respected and debated.

RELEVANCE: Essential for understanding the strategic and operational context in which the Crow scouts operated, including the broader campaign dynamics that brought them into service and shaped their experience.

Gray, John S. *Custer's Last Campaign: Mitch Boyer and the Little Bighorn Reconstructed*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991.

SUMMARY: Gray's magnum opus centers on Mitch Boyer, the mixed-blood (French-Lakota) interpreter and scout who served as the crucial intermediary between Custer and his Crow scouts and who died with Custer's command. Through meticulous time-motion analysis, Gray reconstructs the final campaign in extraordinary detail, rehabilitating the testimony of the Crow scout Curley—long dismissed as unreliable—by demonstrating that apparent contradictions in Curley's accounts were caused by interviewers' faulty assumptions rather than by the scout's dishonesty.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Winner of the Western Writers of America Spur Award and the Little Big Horn Associates John M. Carroll Literary Award. Praised by Paul L. Hedren as "easily the most significant book yet published on the Battle of the Little Bighorn," the work represents the gold standard in analytical battle reconstruction.

RELEVANCE: Perhaps the single most important secondary source for understanding the Crow scouts at the Little Bighorn, particularly the roles of Mitch Boyer and Curley, and the scouts' contributions to the historical reconstruction of the battle.

Gray, John S. "Arikara Scouts With Custer." *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains*, Volume 35, Number 2 (Spring 1968): 447–478.

SUMMARY: Although focused primarily on the Arikara (Ree) scouts who served with Custer, Gray's article provides essential comparative material for understanding the role of all Indian scouts during the 1876 campaign. The detailed examination of Arikara recruitment, service, and battlefield experience illuminates the parallel and sometimes intersecting stories of the Crow and Arikara scout contingents, both of which were attached to the Seventh Cavalry for the Little Bighorn campaign.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Published in a respected state historical journal, the article benefits from Gray's characteristic analytical rigor and extensive primary-source research. It is a standard reference on the Arikara scouts.

RELEVANCE: Provides the comparative framework necessary for distinguishing the Crow scouts' specific contributions from those of the Arikara scouts, and for understanding the different roles played by each group during the campaign.

Gray, John S. "Couriers of Disaster." *Research Review*, Volume 17, Number 12 (December 1983): 3–17.

SUMMARY: Gray examines the movements and identities of the couriers and messengers who carried news of the Little Bighorn disaster from the battlefield to the outside world. The article traces the routes and timelines by which information about Custer's defeat reached military commanders, the press, and the public, applying Gray's signature time-motion methodology to reconstruct the sequence with precision.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Published in the *Research Review*, a specialized journal for Little Bighorn scholarship. Gray's analytical approach and command of the source material are characteristically thorough.

RELEVANCE: Relevant to the Crow scout story because Curley's early arrival at the Far West steamboat made him one of the first—if not the first—to bring intelligence about the battle's outcome, a role that shaped and complicated his subsequent historical reputation.

Hagen, Barry J. "Exactly in the Right Place": A History of Fort C. F. Smith, Montana Territory, 1866–1868. El Segundo, California: Upton & Sons, Publishers, 1999.

SUMMARY: Hagen provides a detailed history of Fort C. F. Smith, the most remote and vulnerable of the three posts established along the Bozeman Trail in 1866–1868 to protect emigrant travel through Crow and Lakota territory. Located in the heart of Crow country along

the Bighorn River, the fort's history is inseparable from Crow-Army relations in the pre-reservation period. The study covers military operations, the Hayfield Fight of 1867, and the eventual abandonment of the fort following the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1868.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Published by Upton & Sons, a specialized frontier military history press. Hagen's focused study draws on military records and provides a thoroughly documented account of the fort's brief but significant history.

RELEVANCE: Provides critical pre-1876 context for Crow-Army relations, illustrating the early military presence in Crow territory that preceded and conditioned the scouting alliance of the Great Sioux War.

Hammer, Kenneth, ed. *Custer in '76: Walter Camp's Notes on the Custer Fight*. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1976.

SUMMARY: Hammer's edition presents the extensive field notes, interview transcripts, and research materials compiled by Walter Mason Camp (1867–1925), a railroad engineer who devoted years to interviewing survivors of the Little Bighorn on both sides of the fight. Camp spoke with over one hundred participants, including soldiers, scouts, and Indian combatants, producing what is arguably the single most important collection of firsthand testimony about the battle. Hammer's careful editorial work organizes and annotates this vast archive for modern researchers.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: An essential primary-source collection published by Brigham Young University Press. Camp's interviews are among the most cited primary sources in Little Bighorn scholarship, and Hammer's editorial apparatus is regarded as reliable and thorough.

RELEVANCE: Contains Camp's interviews with or notes about several Crow scouts, making it an indispensable primary-source reference for any study of the scouts' testimony and experiences.

Harcey, Dennis W., and Brian R. Croone, with Joe Medicine Crow. *White-Man-Runs-Him: Crow Scout with Custer*. Evanston, Illinois: Evanston Publishing Company, 1995.

SUMMARY: This biography traces the life of White Man Runs Him (Mahrásheedaakuuroosh), one of the six Crow scouts assigned to Custer's command at the Little Bighorn. The study draws on the contributions of Joe Medicine Crow, the renowned Crow historian and tribal elder who was White Man Runs Him's step-grandson, bringing family knowledge and Crow oral tradition to bear on the scout's life story. The book covers White Man Runs Him's early life as a Crow warrior, his service in 1876, and his subsequent decades as a reservation-era leader and informant for historians.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: The participation of Joseph Medicine Crow—a trained anthropologist, the first member of the Crow Tribe to earn a master's degree, and a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient—gives the work exceptional authority from both scholarly and cultural perspectives.

RELEVANCE: The only book-length biography of White Man Runs Him, one of the most frequently photographed and interviewed Crow scouts, making it a cornerstone source for Crow scout studies.

Hardorff, Richard G., comp. and ed. *Camp, Custer, and the Little Big Horn: A Collection of Walter Mason Camp's Research Papers on General George A. Custer's Last Fight*. El Segundo, California: Upton & Sons, Publishers, 1997.

SUMMARY: Hardorff compiles and edits additional Walter Mason Camp research papers not included in Kenneth Hammer's earlier 1976 edition. This volume expands the available Camp archive with further interview notes, correspondence, maps, and analytical memoranda that Camp assembled during his decades-long investigation of the Little Bighorn. The materials shed light on Camp's methodology and his evolving interpretations as he gathered more testimony from participants.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: Hardorff was one of the most productive and meticulous editors of Little Bighorn primary sources, and Upton & Sons is the premier specialty press in this field. The Camp papers themselves carry exceptional primary-source authority.

RELEVANCE: Supplements the Hammer edition with additional Camp materials, some of which contain references to and interviews with Crow scouts and other Indian participants in the battle.

Hardorff, Richard G. *On the Little Bighorn with Walter Camp: A Collection of W. M. Camp's Letters, Notes and Opinions on Custer's Last Fight*. El Segundo, California: Upton & Sons Publishers, 2002.

SUMMARY: This volume presents a further collection of previously unpublished Walter Camp materials, focusing on Camp's correspondence with battle participants, his analytical notes, and his personal opinions on contested aspects of the fight. Hardorff's edition includes thirty-three of Camp's own letters to various correspondents, revealing how Camp formulated his conclusions and how he evaluated conflicting testimony. The collection provides insight into Camp's evolving assessment of scout testimony, including that of Curley and other Crow scouts.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: Published by Upton & Sons and edited by the highly regarded Hardorff, this volume meets the high standard established by the editor's extensive body of primary-source publications in the field.

RELEVANCE: Camp's correspondence and notes include assessments of Crow scout testimony that are critical for understanding how early researchers interpreted—and sometimes misinterpreted—the scouts' accounts.

Hutchins, James S., intro. and ed. *The Papers of Edward S. Curtis Relating to Custer's Last Battle*. El Segundo, California: Upton & Sons, 2000.

SUMMARY: Hutchins compiles and introduces the Little Bighorn-related papers of Edward S. Curtis, the renowned photographer best known for his monumental photographic survey *The North American Indian*. Curtis conducted interviews with Indian participants in the battle during his fieldwork among the Crow, Arikara, and Lakota, and his unpublished notes contain testimony

not available elsewhere. This edition makes those materials accessible to researchers for the first time in a compiled format.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: Curtis's original field notes are primary sources of significant value, and Hutchins's editorial introduction contextualizes them within the broader documentary record. Published by the specialist press Upton & Sons.

RELEVANCE: Curtis's Volume IV of *The North American Indian* (1909) covered the Apsáalooke, and his related papers include direct testimony from Crow participants, making this collection a valuable source for Crow scout studies.

Keefe, Brian L. *Red Was the Blood of Our Forefathers: Episodes from Crow Indian Intertribal Warfare*. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Press, 2010.

SUMMARY: Keefe presents a collection of episodes from Crow intertribal warfare, drawing on oral traditions, early ethnographic records, and historical accounts to reconstruct specific engagements between the Crows and their traditional enemies—principally the Lakota, Cheyenne, Blackfeet, and Shoshone. The episodes illustrate the martial culture and tactical sophistication of Crow warriors in the pre-reservation period, providing the military and cultural context in which the men who became Army scouts were raised and trained.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Published by Caxton Press, a regional publisher with a long history of Western Americana titles. Keefe's work synthesizes multiple source traditions, though it is more popular than academic in its apparatus.

RELEVANCE: Directly illuminates the warrior tradition and combat experience that the Crow scouts brought to their service with the Army, demonstrating that their military skills were honed through generations of intertribal conflict.

Leforge, Thomas H. *Memoirs of a White Crow Indian: As Told by Thomas B. Marquis*. With an Introduction by Joseph Medicine Crow and Herman J. Viola. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1974. Initially published in New York by the Century Company in 1928.

SUMMARY: This as-told-to memoir recounts the life of Thomas Leforge, a white man who married into the Crow Nation, was adopted by the tribe, and lived among the Crows for decades. Leforge served as an Army scout and interpreter, including service during the 1876 campaign with Gibbon's Montana Column, and his account provides an insider-outsider perspective on Crow life, customs, and military engagements. The 1974 reprint includes an introduction by Joseph Medicine Crow and Herman J. Viola that situates the work within modern Crow and scholarly perspectives.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Leforge's firsthand knowledge of Crow life is invaluable, though the as-told-to format (narrated to Thomas B. Marquis) introduces the possibility of editorial shaping. The 1974 introduction by Medicine Crow and Viola adds a critical scholarly and community perspective.

RELEVANCE: Leforge's unique position as a white man fully integrated into Crow society provides rare cross-cultural observations on the Crow scouts and their world, including details of recruitment and service not available from other sources.

Libby, Orin G., ed. *The Arikara Narrative of the Campaign Against the Hostile Dakotas — June 1876*. Bismarck, North Dakota: North Dakota Historical Society, 1920. Reprinted by The Rio Grande Press, Inc., Glorieta, New Mexico, 1976.

SUMMARY: Libby's pioneering work compiles the collective narrative of the Arikara (Ree) scouts who served with the Seventh Cavalry during the 1876 campaign. Based on interviews conducted at Fort Berthold in 1912, the narrative presents the Arikara perspective on the march, the battle, and its aftermath, offering a detailed Indigenous account that complements and sometimes contradicts the military record. The work was among the earliest attempts to systematically record Native testimony about the Little Bighorn.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: A landmark primary-source publication produced by the North Dakota Historical Society. Libby's careful methodology and the direct participation of Arikara veterans make this a foundational document in Indian testimony on the Little Bighorn.

RELEVANCE: Essential companion to Crow scout accounts, as the Arikara and Crow scouts served alongside each other during the campaign and their testimonies illuminate, corroborate, and sometimes complicate one another.

Liddic, Bruce R., and Paul Harbaugh, eds. *Camp on Custer: Transcribing the Custer Myth*. Spokane, Washington: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1995.

SUMMARY: Liddic and Harbaugh present another selection of Walter Mason Camp's field notes and interview transcripts, organized and edited with attention to the process by which Camp gathered, evaluated, and transcribed testimony. The volume offers a different editorial perspective from the Hammer and Hardorff editions, emphasizing the relationship between Camp's raw notes and the evolving "Custer myth" that his research both documented and challenged.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: Published by the Arthur H. Clark Company, the most prestigious publisher of Western Americana primary sources. The editors' work complements the Hammer and Hardorff editions and is widely used by researchers.

RELEVANCE: Additional Camp materials bearing on scout testimony and the reconstruction of the battle, providing yet another lens through which to evaluate the Crow scouts' accounts as recorded by Camp.

Linderman, Frank B. *Red Mother*. New York: The John Day Company, 1932. Reprinted as *Pretty-shield: Medicine Woman of the Crows*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1974.

SUMMARY: Linderman's work presents the autobiography of Pretty-shield, a Crow medicine woman, communicated through an interpreter and sign language. This was among the first published accounts of a Plains Indian woman's life told in her own voice, covering childhood, courtship, marriage, childbirth, daily labor, and the spiritual dimensions of Crow womanhood.

Pretty-shield recalled the pre-reservation era with vivid detail, describing the last years of the buffalo culture and the wrenching transition to reservation life.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: A classic of Plains Indian autobiography, widely assigned in university courses and continuously in print. Linderman's long relationship with the Crow people lends the work authenticity, though the interpreter-mediated format presents inherent limitations.

RELEVANCE: Provides the essential female perspective on Crow life in the era of the Little Bighorn, illuminating the social and domestic world from which the male scouts came and to which they returned.

Linderman, Frank B. *American: The Life Story of a Great Indian, Plenty-coups, Chief of the Crows*. New York: The John Day Company, 1930. Reprinted as *Plenty-coups: Chief of the Crows*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1962.

SUMMARY: This autobiography of Plenty Coups (Aléekchea'ahoosh), the last hereditary chief of the Crow, records his life from childhood through the end of the buffalo era. Plenty Coups was renowned for the prophetic vision he received as a young man, in which he foresaw the disappearance of the buffalo and counseled his people to adapt to the coming changes by allying with the whites. His narrative covers warfare, the vision quest, chieftainship, and the Crow decision to cooperate with the United States—yet Plenty Coups famously told Linderman that after the buffalo went away, "nothing happened."

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: One of the most celebrated Native American autobiographies, analyzed extensively by scholars including philosopher Jonathan Lear in *Radical Hope* (2006). Linderman's careful, respectful methodology has been widely praised, though the mediating role of interpreter and amanuensis must be acknowledged.

RELEVANCE: Plenty Coups's vision and leadership philosophy directly informed the Crow decision to ally with the Army, providing the ideological and spiritual foundation for the scouting service of 1876.

Medicine Crow, Joseph. *From the Heart of the Crow Country: The Crow Indians' Own Stories*. New York: Orion Books, 1992.

SUMMARY: Joseph Medicine Crow (1913–2016), the Crow Nation's preeminent historian and the step-grandson of the scout White Man Runs Him, presents a rich collection of Crow legends, historical narratives, and cultural commentary told from within the Crow tradition. Raised by grandparents who remembered pre-reservation life, Medicine Crow drew on family knowledge and decades of scholarly research to produce a work that combines the rigor of an academically trained anthropologist with the authority of a Crow elder and storyteller.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Medicine Crow held a master's degree from the University of Southern California, was the first Crow to earn a post-graduate degree, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His dual authority as trained anthropologist and cultural insider makes this work uniquely authoritative.

RELEVANCE: Offers the Crow Nation's own perspective on its history, culture, and relationship with the United States, including reflections on the scouts' role as understood within the Crow community itself.

Miller, Fred E. Collection of Photographic Prints and Negatives, ca. 1898–1912. National Museum of the American Indian Archives, Cultural Resources Center, Suitland, Maryland.

SUMMARY: This archival collection comprises photographic prints and negatives produced by Fred E. Miller, who lived and worked on or near the Crow Reservation between approximately 1898 and 1912. Miller's photographs document Crow daily life, ceremonies, dwellings, individuals, and landscapes during the early reservation period, providing an extensive visual record of the community in the decades immediately following the events of 1876. The collection is held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

SOURCE TYPE: Photographic Collection

CREDIBILITY: Housed at the National Museum of the American Indian, a Smithsonian Institution repository, the collection benefits from professional archival stewardship. Miller's photographs are widely reproduced in Crow history publications and are regarded as among the most important photographic records of the Apsáalooke.

RELEVANCE: The photographs include images of individuals who participated in or witnessed the 1876 campaign, as well as depictions of the cultural life that defined the Crow world the scouts inhabited.

Nabokov, Peter. *Two Leggings: The Making of a Crow Warrior*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1967.

SUMMARY: Nabokov presents the autobiography of Two Leggings, a Crow warrior who lived during the turbulent transition from the free-roaming buffalo era to the reservation period. Based on interviews conducted by William Wildschut for the Museum of the American Indian in the 1920s, the narrative provides an extraordinarily detailed account of the war experience, vision questing, and the pursuit of honor in traditional Crow warrior culture. Two Leggings's frustration at never achieving the highest war honors gives the account a poignant personal dimension.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Based on Wildschut's original interview materials and prepared by the respected ethnohistorian Peter Nabokov. The work is recognized as one of the finest warrior autobiographies in the Plains Indian canon and is widely cited in anthropological and historical studies.

RELEVANCE: Provides the deepest available insight into the warrior ethos and war-honor system that motivated Crow men, including those who served as scouts—the same cultural imperatives that drove them to seek combat and count coup.

Noyes, C. Lee. "Charles A. Varnum and the Road to Little Big Horn." *Greasy Grass*, Volume 27 (May 2011): 12–26.

SUMMARY: Noyes examines the career and experiences of Lieutenant Charles A. Varnum, Custer's chief of scouts, with particular attention to his assignment to command the scout detachment during the 1876 campaign. The article traces Varnum's path to the Little Bighorn, his

relationship with the Crow and Arikara scouts under his charge, and the critical intelligence-gathering activities—especially the reconnaissance from the Crow's Nest—that preceded the battle on June 25.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Published in *Greasy Grass*, a well-regarded journal in Little Bighorn studies. Noyes is a recognized researcher in frontier military history with a record of carefully documented work.

RELEVANCE: Directly addresses the command relationship between Varnum and the Crow scouts, essential for understanding how the scouts' intelligence was received, evaluated, and acted upon—or ignored—by the officer responsible for them.

Pease, Eloise Whitebear. Collection I and II. Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency, Montana.

SUMMARY: The Eloise Whitebear Pease Collection, held at Little Big Horn College, comprises two collections of documents, photographs, and personal papers assembled by Pease, a Crow community member and descendant of notable Crow figures. The collections contain materials related to Crow family histories, community life, and the historical events that shaped the Crow Reservation, including materials pertaining to the scouts and their descendants.

SOURCE TYPE: Archival Collection

CREDIBILITY: Housed at Little Big Horn College, a tribal college on the Crow Reservation, the collection represents community-curated materials of high cultural and historical authenticity. Access may be subject to tribal protocols.

RELEVANCE: A primary-source collection rooted in the Crow community, offering family-level documentation and perspectives that are often absent from institutional archives and non-Native scholarship.

Plainfeather, Mardell Hogan. "A Personal Look at Curley's Life After the Battle of the Little Big Horn." *Greasy Grass*, Volume 4 (May 1988): 17–24.

SUMMARY: Plainfeather, a Crow community member and descendant of Curley, provides a personal and familial perspective on the scout's life after the battle. Moving beyond the familiar questions about what Curley saw on June 25, 1876, the article examines his post-battle years—his family life on the Crow Reservation, his repeated interviews by journalists and historians, the burden of celebrity and suspicion he carried, and his death in 1923. The personal and family knowledge Plainfeather brings to the narrative distinguishes this work from non-Native accounts.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Plainfeather writes with the authority of a family member and cultural insider; her account provides details and perspectives unavailable from other sources. Published in *Greasy Grass*, the CBHMA journal.

RELEVANCE: Offers the rare Crow family perspective on one of the most controversial figures in Little Bighorn history, restoring the human dimensions of Curley's life beyond the well-worn debates about his battlefield testimony.

Plainfeather, Mardell Hogan. "The Role of the Native American Indian in the Interpretation of Military History." In *4th Annual Symposium Custer Battlefield*

Historical and Museum Association, Inc. held at Hardin, Montana on June 22, 1990, 32–38.

SUMMARY: In this symposium presentation, Plainfeather addresses the broader question of how Native American perspectives have been incorporated—or excluded—from the interpretation of military history at sites like the Little Bighorn battlefield. She argues for the centrality of Indigenous voices in the telling of histories that profoundly affected their communities and calls for interpretive approaches that honor Native perspectives rather than treating them as supplementary to the dominant military narrative.

SOURCE TYPE: Symposium Paper

CREDIBILITY: Delivered at the CBHMA annual symposium, the paper reflects Plainfeather's authority as a Crow community member deeply engaged with battlefield interpretation. Her arguments anticipate later changes in National Park Service interpretive policy at the site.

RELEVANCE: Directly addresses the historiographical challenge of centering Crow and other Native voices in the interpretation of the Little Bighorn—a challenge that remains central to the sesquicentennial commemoration.

Sills, Joe. "The Crow Scouts: Their Contribution in Understanding the Little Big Horn Battle." *5th Annual Symposium Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association, Inc. held at Hardin, Montana on June 24, 1991, 11–18.*

SUMMARY: Sills's symposium paper evaluates the collective testimony of the Crow scouts and assesses its contribution to historians' understanding of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The paper examines the scouts' unique vantage point—they were among the last to see Custer's command intact—and argues that their accounts, properly understood, provide essential evidence for reconstructing the sequence of events during the battle. Sills addresses the long history of dismissing or distorting scout testimony and advocates for its rehabilitation.

SOURCE TYPE: Symposium Paper

CREDIBILITY: Presented at the CBHMA symposium, a respected venue for Little Bighorn scholarship. Sills's analytical treatment of the scouts' testimony contributes to the growing scholarly consensus that scout accounts have been undervalued.

RELEVANCE: Among the most focused assessments of the Crow scouts' collective evidentiary contribution to Little Bighorn studies, directly addressing the central theme of this bibliography.

Thomas, Rodney G. *Introduction by Mardell Plainfeather. Biilaachia-White Swan: Crow Warrior – Custer Scout – American Artist.* McFarland Books, 2022.

SUMMARY: This work by the compiler of the present bibliography provides the first comprehensive biography of White Swan (Biilaachia), the Crow scout who was severely wounded during Major Reno's valley fight at the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876. Thomas presents White Swan's complete body of warrior biographic art—37 paintings and drawings recording 22 combat actions—for the first time, analyzing each work within its historical and cultural context. The volume draws on four little-known interviews with White Swan, previously unpublished photographs, and extensive research into Apsáalooke history and material culture. An introduction by Mardell Plainfeather provides a Crow community perspective on the work.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Praised by *Wild West Magazine* as a "stellar contribution to Plains Indian wars literature" and by the *Midwest Book Review* as "a masterpiece of historical scholarship." Thomas, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, brings rigorous military-historical methodology to the study.

RELEVANCE: The definitive study of White Swan—warrior, scout, and artist—integrating Crow cultural history, biographic art analysis, and Little Bighorn battlefield reconstruction in a single volume.

Upton, Richard. *The Indian as a Soldier at Fort Custer, Montana, 1890–1895: Lieutenant Samuel C. Robertson's First Cavalry Crow Indian Contingent*. El Segundo: Upton and Sons, Inc., 1983.

SUMMARY: Upton documents the little-known experiment of enlisting Crow men as regular Army soldiers at Fort Custer, Montana, during the early 1890s. Under Lieutenant Samuel C. Robertson, a contingent of Crow warriors served in the First Cavalry, participating in military drill, garrison duty, and field exercises. The study examines the program's origins, the motivations of the Crow participants, and the cultural tensions inherent in integrating traditional warriors into the regimented structure of the U.S. Army.

SOURCE TYPE: Book

CREDIBILITY: Published by Upton and Sons, the specialty press founded by the author. Upton's research is based on military records and primary documentation, providing a well-sourced account of an overlooked chapter in Crow-Army relations.

RELEVANCE: Extends the story of Crow military service beyond the 1876 campaign, demonstrating the continuity of the Crow-Army relationship and the ongoing warrior tradition among Crow men in the post-Little Bighorn era.

Upton, Richard, ed., comp., intro. *The Battle of the Little Big Horn: Custer's Last Fight Remembered by Participants at the Tenth Anniversary, June 25, 1886, and the Fiftieth Anniversary, June 25, 1926*. El Segundo, CA: Upton & Sons, 2006.

SUMMARY: Upton compiles accounts and testimony gathered at two significant commemorative events at the Little Bighorn battlefield: the tenth anniversary in 1886, when many participants were still relatively young, and the fiftieth anniversary in 1926, when aged survivors returned to the field for what most knew would be a final visit. The collection preserves speeches, interviews, and commemorative statements from both soldiers and Indian participants, including observations by or about the Crow scouts who survived the battle.

SOURCE TYPE: Edited Volume

CREDIBILITY: Published by Upton & Sons, the volume draws on contemporary newspaper accounts, official records, and other documentation of the anniversary events. Upton's editorial work preserves and contextualizes these historically significant commemorations.

RELEVANCE: Anniversary commemorations often elicited new or revised testimony from participants, including Crow scouts, making this collection valuable for tracking how the battle was remembered and reinterpreted over time.

Wagner, Frederic C. "Shaving the Dilemma's Horns: Curley and the Scouts at the Little Bighorn." *Research Review* 28, no. 2 (2014): 2–17, 29–30.

SUMMARY: Wagner's article revisits the long-debated question of Curley's movements and observations during the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The title's allusion to "shaving the dilemma's horns" signals Wagner's attempt to resolve the apparent contradictions in Curley's multiple accounts by careful textual and contextual analysis. The article evaluates the various interviews Curley gave over the decades, identifies sources of confusion introduced by interpreters and interviewers, and argues for a coherent reading of the scout's testimony.

SOURCE TYPE: Journal Article

CREDIBILITY: Published in the *Research Review*, the journal of the Little Big Horn Associates. Wagner's careful analytical approach and engagement with the full range of Curley's recorded testimony reflects serious scholarship.

RELEVANCE: Directly addresses one of the most persistent controversies in Little Bighorn studies—the reliability of Curley's testimony—and contributes to the growing rehabilitation of the Crow scout's credibility as a witness.

Williams, Owen B. Collection. The Wyoming Room, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library.

SUMMARY: The Owen B. Williams Collection, held in the Wyoming Room of the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library, contains papers, documents, and other materials related to frontier history in the Sheridan, Wyoming, area—a region closely connected to Crow territory and the events of the Great Sioux War. Williams's materials may include correspondence, personal papers, and historical documents pertaining to the Crow people, the military campaigns of the 1870s, and the development of the region in the post-frontier era.

SOURCE TYPE: Archival Collection

CREDIBILITY: Housed in a public library with dedicated local history collections. The Wyoming Room is a recognized repository for regional historical materials, though the collection's scope and accessibility should be verified by researchers before reliance.

RELEVANCE: The Sheridan, Wyoming, area was adjacent to Crow country and the Little Bighorn battlefield; archival materials from this region frequently contain information about Crow individuals, including scouts and their descendants.

Williams, Minnie Reed Collection. Little Big Horn College Archives, Crow Agency, Montana.

SUMMARY: The Minnie Reed Williams Collection, held at the Little Big Horn College Archives on the Crow Reservation, comprises documents, photographs, and other materials assembled by Williams, who had connections to the Crow community. The collection contributes to the archival resources available at the tribal college, supplementing other holdings related to Crow history, culture, and the Little Bighorn battlefield.

SOURCE TYPE: Archival Collection

CREDIBILITY: Housed at Little Big Horn College, a Crow tribal institution committed to preserving Apsáalooke history and culture. As a community-based archive, the collection may contain materials of high cultural significance not duplicated in non-Native repositories.

RELEVANCE: Contributes to the growing body of archival resources held within the Crow community itself, representing an important development in the stewardship and interpretation of Crow historical materials related to the Little Bighorn and beyond.