

1: George Armstrong Custer - Wikipedia

For more than years most have accepted the claim by John S. Mosby that George Armstrong Custer bears the guilt associated with the executions of six of Mosby's Rangers at Front Royal, Virginia on September 23,

This is both a blessing and a curse. I guess when think about it, my inability to avoid buying Custer books is better described as a curse and a curse. And it came as no surprise when *The Real Custer* failed to click with me. The book stops skimming around page 47, and the outset of the Civil War. The Civil War constitutes the bulk of this book; it is admirably thorough, in its plodding way. This is a collection of facts, each set atop the other like blocks. This is a history book. Wait – let me rephrase that. If I want to know simply what happened, and in what order, there are many different places I can go. I can look at a timeline. I can read a reference book. I can check out an encyclopedia entry. When I pay cover price for a book, I want something entirely different. I want the facts to be cohered into an entertaining narrative. I want events to be analyzed. I want the basic journalistic questions answered; not just where and when, but why and how. But there is no attempt to divine any deeper meaning. Instead, he falls into an enervating rhythm: There is no strategic context. Very little tactical context. There are no maps. Not a single map in the entire book! No explanation of the topography. No vivid descriptions of battle. No interesting primary source quotations. He seems like a psycho. A luckier version of Judson Kilpatrick. The historian Allen Guelzo has argued persuasively that both the Union and Confederacy badly misused their cavalry. Because of this, there never was a Waterloo in the Civil War, the great climatic battle that would have finished things one way or the other. Instead, there were a series of exceedingly bloody and famous standoffs. There is a case to be made that Custer understood this and should be lauded accordingly. Robbins does not make that case. Another problem with *The Real Custer* is that Robbins never bothers to pull on any threads, to explore what happens when you tease out an idea. For example, Robbins goes to the trouble of giving us the chapter on Custer versus Mosby. Mosby was an insurgent, a guerilla fighter, much like the Lakota and Cheyenne Custer later faced on the plains. Custer failed against Mosby. Ultimately, he failed spectacularly against the Indians. Or am I asking too much? As I mentioned above, *The Real Custer* falls into the encyclopedia trap. Robbins does very little sorting and sifting of accounts in an attempt to find the most plausible story to recount. There are no details on the various movements made by the 7th Cavalry the charges, the reconnaissance missions, the feints and counter-feints and no attempt to corral all the varying sources into a credible sequence. Are maps that expensive? This neglects reams of contrary opinions, archaeological evidence, and eyewitness reports that – with the exception of Lt. He was a capable soldier and a stone killer. And we have to deal with that reputation. The title of this book makes a claim to verity. It endorses a warts-and-all view of an American soldier who elicits only strong opinions. This is a promise that goes undelivered. Instead, he consistently deals with them fleetingly or parenthetically. There were also reports that Custer was sexually involved with a Cheyenne woman. Robbins dismisses the tales as anti-Custer folderol. However, esteemed western historian Jerome Greene has stated that Ben Clark a scout who made some of these claims was a reliable witness, and that independent sources corroborate aspects of this unseemly story. Declarations of truth-seeking to the contrary, Robbins wants you to embrace Custer as a hero. Well, he once played Custer in the movie *Santa Fe Trail*. The film was set in , with John Brown as the villain. Custer could like and respect individual Indians and their way of life while also charging into their sleeping villages. He could be a savage killer but also a reckless peacemaker. He was soldier, which meant he followed orders. He was an eager participant in the Indian Wars, and his ability to question certain aspects of it makes him both more commendable and more despicable. He begged to be part of the military campaign that ended with his death; he did so to gratify financial and professional ends. Custer was neither all good or all bad, but Robbins wants to glorify him, rather than understand him. Is this a completely true statement? It is punchy and declarative and creates a memorable image. There is nothing like that sentence in this book.

2: Custer and the Front Royal Executions of - Jay W. Simson - Google Books

For nearly a century and a half most historians of the Civil War have accepted the claim by Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby that George Armstrong Custer bears all of the guilt associated with the summary executions of six of Mosby's Rangers at Front Royal, Virginia on September 23,

He joined the US cavalry and was to become one of the best-known men in America. He was widely seen as a national hero by some and also a national disgrace. However, he won everlasting fame some ten years later because of his catastrophic defeat at the battle of Little Big Horn. Ironically, it was his defeat that made him secure the everlasting fame that this most ambitious of men sought all through his colorful life and career. Many believe that the General was personally responsible for the defeat at the Battle that caused his death. He was a daring man and a brilliant leader of men. He had proved himself to be one of the finest cavalry officers of the American Civil War. However, he was also a poor strategist and his need for glory and recognition clouded his judgment. These qualities meant that he was responsible for the defeat at the Battle of the Little Big Horn and his own death. The Battle of the Big Hero was the best-known defeat inflicted by the Native American tribes upon the American army for almost a century. A complete force of experienced cavalymen was killed by the Native Americans. The force under Custer was annihilated by the Lakota Sioux and their allies the Cheyenne. These included his eighteen-year-old nephew, the son of his sister, Henry Reed. His brother-in-law was also killed. During the battle his two younger brothers, were also killed. One of them Thomas had won the medal of honor twice in the American Civil War. Custer on the left with Lincoln and other Union generals Custer was probably of German origin. His name was originally Kuster and it originated in the Palatine in Germany. The Palatines had fled Germany because of constant war in the early eighteenth century and they had been aided by the English to settle in England, Ireland and America. The family anglicized the name to Custer sometime in the eighteenth century. Custer on horseback on the right Even though Custer attended the most famous military academy in America, WestPoint, he was not a brilliant student. Custer was always a man of action and he was not academically inclined. He wanted to be in the thick of things rather than simply studying and taking exams. His love of action and adventure drew him to the military. He did not care and soon was known by his fellow classmates as the daredevil. He was constantly in trouble and he was censured several times and earned many demerits. The goat was the graduate who finished last at the military academy. Custer with another general he is on the left He may not have been a brilliant scholar but he was a brilliant soldier and a natural leader of men. Custer joined the Army of the Potomac and he won plaudits for his cavalry charges. He also showed great skill when it came to battlefield tactics. Such was his bravery and leadership that he was rapidly promoted and he soon became a colonel. Custer was promoted to the rank of brigadier general at the age of twenty-three. He cemented his reputation for bravery at the Battle of Gettysburg when he led his men on a counter charge that repelled a larger Confederate cavalry force. He fought at the first major enjoyment of the war, that was the Battle of Bull Run. Custer was also present at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox which effectively ended the American Civil War. The surrender of Lee to Grant was signed at a table in one of the rooms of the Appomattox courthouse. Lee left the courthouse and so did Grant and none thought of the table where the historic document was signed. However, he decided to give it as a gift to his brilliant young subordinate, in recognition of his services, during the war. She lived until and when she died she willed it to the Smithsonian Institution. It is still held by the institution and it is one of its most prized assets and exhibits. Monument to Custer in Ohio Custer was very vain. He was personally brave and was a daredevil and was widely respect by friend and foe. The Cavalry were perceived to be the most glamorous part of the military and the individual cavalry officers believed that they had to appear dashing and well-dressed. However, Custer was even by the standards of the time was vain. He was very conscious of his appearance and he made sure that his blonde and wavy hair was his trademark. Custer made sure that his hair was well-kept and cut and it is commonly believed that he had his hair scented. Many regard Custer as deliberately cultivating a public image in a bid to win fame and popularity. Many have seen Custer as simply vain and shallow. However, many believe that Custer sought to have a positive public image in

order to further his career in the military. Moreover, he was keen to have the public on his side, in order to possibly win support for a future career in politics. The image of Custer was very well-known during and after the Civil War. Painting of the Battle of the Little Big Horn Custer was a rebel and could not tolerate discipline for long. He was twice court-martialed and these nearly ended his military career. Indeed, his first court-martial nearly ended his career before it began. As a cadet in WestPoint, Custer was court-martialed because he did not stop a fight between two cadets when he was an officer of the guard, but he managed to talk his way out of this. Much more serious was an incident in , at the time Custer was stationed at a fort in Kansas. However, his wife Libbie was many miles away and the young general became lonesome for his wife. Without orders or permission Custer left his post and handed over command of his regiment to another. All of this was contrary to orders. When the military discovered this- he was court-martialed and was found guilty of eight counts of misconduct including the serious charge of neglect of duty. This was a crisis in his career and he was effectively suspended from his command without pay. Sheridan had him reinstated because he knew that Custer was a fighter and that was needed in the battles with the Indians of the Plains. This was partly because of his wife. She wrote many books about her late husband and gave many interviews about his life and achievements. Libbie became a celebrity in her own way and she never remarried even though she was considered a great beauty. She was a widow for 56 years. Perhaps the greatest proponent of the myth of George Custer was Buffalo Bill. He was a great impresario and he staged for many years the Wild West Show. These were live performances in which often real cowboys and Indians recreated famous scenes from the Wild West. One of the most popular of these was the Battle of the Little Big Horn. In fact, Custer was widely blamed for the defeat. However, Libbie and Buffalo Bill helped to keep the name of Custer alive. He was considered lucky by his own superiors and subordinated. This only made him more popular in the army and in the country at large. This can be seen in the way that he managed to escape two court martials with little consequences for his career. Part of the reason why Custer was lucky was that he was so charismatic and this allowed him to get away with a lot of things. He seemed to have believed that he was almost protected by a higher power and that he was destined for better things. During the Civil War, Custer was very lucky not to have been killed or seriously wounded in spite of his daring command and having eleven horses killed under him. Many expected that his luck would bring him to the very top of the establishment in America and that he would one day even be a President. However, his luck finally ran out at the Little Big Horn. His charmed life had made him overconfident and he did not listen to his subordinates who advised him not to risk his forces. Custer in his overconfidence probably led his men to their doom. One of the most striking is the Cheyenne claim was that the great general and hero of the American public was actually killed by a Cheyenne female warrior. In June , the Northern Cheyenne broke a century of silence about the death of Custer. Storytellers said that according to their tradition, Buffalo Calf Road Woman, a Northern Cheyenne heroine , struck the mortal blow against Custer. According to tradition, she was the one who knocked him off his horse. She then ran up to the prone Custer and killed him. This story seems unlikely, because a soldier who inspected his body, stated that Custer had been killed by two shots most likely from a rifle that had been fired from a distance. The shots had hit him in the temple and in the heart and it seems that his death was quick. His body had not been mutilated and some have speculated that this was out of respect for him by the Cheyenne. Custer was re-buried again with full military honors at West Point. Many of the ordinary soldiers remained buried at the battle site. It has since been listed as a National Cemetery by the American government.

3: George Armstrong Custer | Civil War Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

George Armstrong Custer's Michigan ties Michigan always had George Armstrong Custer's back. The military hero and goat grew up in Monroe and maintained close friendships in Monroe and Detroit.

Custer also had three older half-siblings. Emanuel Custer was an outspoken Democrat who taught his children politics and toughness at an early age. He had to have a tooth drawn, and he was very much afraid of blood. When I took him to the doctor to have the tooth pulled, it was in the night and I told him if it bled well it would get well right away, and he must be a good soldier. When he got to the doctor he took his seat, and the pulling began. The forceps slipped off and he had to make a second trial. He pulled it out, and Autie never even scrunched. Going home, I led him by the arm. It was to train teachers for elementary schools. While attending Hopedale, Custer and classmate William Enos Emery were known to have carried coal to help pay for their room and board. His class numbered seventy-nine cadets embarking on a five-year course of study. With the outbreak of the American Civil War in , the course was shortened to four years, and Custer and his class graduated on June 24, He was 34th in a class of 34 graduates: In his four years at West Point, he amassed a record-total of demerits, one of the worst conduct records in the history of the academy. A fellow cadet recalled Custer as declaring there were only two places in a class, the head and the foot, and since he had no desire to be the head, he aspired to be the foot. A roommate noted, "It was alright with George Custer, whether he knew his lesson or not; he simply did not allow it to trouble him. All officers were needed. Civil War[edit] McClellan and Pleasonton[edit] Custer with ex-classmate, friend, and captured Confederate prisoner, Lieutenant James Barroll Washington, an aide to General Johnston , at Fair Oaks, Virginia, Like the other graduates, Custer was commissioned as a second lieutenant ; he was assigned to the 2nd U. Cavalry Regiment and tasked with drilling volunteers in Washington, D. After the battle, Custer continued participating in the defenses of Washington D. He was absent from his unit until February Johnston up the Peninsula, when General Barnard and his staff were reconnoitering a potential crossing point on the Chickahominy River , they stopped, and Custer overheard Barnard mutter, "I wish I knew how deep it is. The attack was successful, resulting in the capture of 50 Confederate soldiers and the seizing of the first Confederate battle flag of the war. McClellan termed it a "very gallant affair" and congratulated Custer personally. In his role as aide-de-camp to McClellan, Custer began his life-long pursuit of publicity. On July 17, he was reverted to the rank of first lieutenant. Recalling his service under Pleasonton, Custer was quoted as saying that "no father could love his son more than General Pleasonton loves me. Lee , moving north through the Shenandoah Valley in the beginning of what was to become the Gettysburg Campaign. On June 29, after consulting with his new commander, George Meade , Pleasanton began replacing political generals with "commanders who were prepared to fight, to personally lead mounted attacks". Wesley Merritt , Elon J. Farnsworth both of whom had command experience and George A. All received immediate promotions; Custer to brigadier general of volunteers, commanding the Michigan Cavalry Brigade "Wolverines". Custer lost no time in implanting his aggressive character on his brigade, part of the division of Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick. Now a general officer, Custer had great latitude in choosing his uniform. Though often criticized as gaudy, it was more than personal vanity. He intended to lead from the front, and to him it was a crucial issue of unit morale that his men be able to look up in the middle of a charge, or at any other time on the battlefield, and instantly see him leading the way into danger. Hearing gunfire, he turned and started to the sound of the guns. Reassembling his command, he received orders from Kilpatrick to engage the enemy northeast of town near the railway station. Custer deployed his troops and began to advance. After a brief firefight, the rebels withdrew to the northeast. This seemed odd, since it was supposed that Lee and his army were somewhere to the west. Though seemingly of little consequence, this skirmish further delayed Stuart from joining Lee. Further, as Captain James H. Kidd, commander of F troop, Sixth Michigan Cavalry, later wrote: Late in the morning they heard sounds of gunfire from the direction of Gettysburg. The next morning, July 2, , orders came to hurry north to disrupt General Richard S. Returning to his men, he carefully positioned them along both sides of the road where they would be hidden from the rebels. As he had expected, the rebels,

"more than two hundred horsemen, came racing down the country road" after Custer and his men. He lost half of his men in the deadly rebel fire and his horse went down, leaving him on foot. The rebels broke off their attack, and both sides withdrew. He was about to experience perhaps his finest hours during the war. To accomplish this, he sent Stuart with six thousand cavalymen and mounted infantry on a long, flanking maneuver. Custer then sent out scouts to investigate nearby wooded areas. About the same time Gregg received a message warning that a large body of rebel cavalry had moved out the York Pike and might be trying to get around the Union right. A second message, from Pleasonton, ordered Gregg to send Custer to cover the Union far left. Since Gregg had already sent most of his force off to other duties, it was clear to both Gregg and Custer that Custer must remain. They had about men facing Confederates. Soon afterward fighting broke out between the skirmish lines. Stuart ordered an attack by his mounted infantry under General Albert G. Custer ordered Pennington to answer. Resupplied, they again pressed the attack. Outnumbered, the Union cavalry fell back, firing as they went. The Fifth Michigan was forced back and the battle was reduced to vicious, hand-to-hand combat. Seeing this, Custer mounted a counter- attack, riding ahead of the fewer than new troopers of the Seventh Michigan Cavalry, shouting, "Come on, you Wolverines! The horses and men became jammed into a solid mass and were soon attacked on their left flank by the dismounted Ninth and Thirteenth Virginia Cavalry and on the right flank by the mounted First Virginia cavalry. The pursuing Confederates were cut down by canister, then driven back by the remounted Fifth Michigan Cavalry. Both forces withdrew to a safe distance to regroup. The artillery barrage to the west had suddenly stopped. A grander spectacle than their advance has rarely been beheld". He must make one, last effort to break through the Union cavalry. Outnumbered but undaunted, Custer rode to the head of the regiment, "drew his saber, threw off his hat so they could see his long yellow hair" and shouted McIntosh was able to gather some of his men from the First New Jersey and Third Pennsylvania and charged the rebel left flank. Stuart knew that whatever chance he had of joining the Confederate assault was gone. He withdrew his men to Cress Ridge. She was not initially impressed with him, [33] and her father, Judge Daniel Bacon, disapproved of Custer as a match because he was the son of a blacksmith. It was not until well after Custer had been promoted to the rank of brevet brigadier general that he gained the approval of Judge Bacon. He married Elizabeth Bacon fourteen months after they formally met. Cheyenne oral history tells that she also bore a second child, fathered by Custer in late Some historians, however, believe that Custer had become sterile after contracting gonorrhea while at West Point and that the father was, in actuality, his brother Thomas. Stuart was mortally wounded. Sheridan and Custer, having defeated Early, returned to the main Union Army lines at the Siege of Petersburg , where they spent the winter. In April the Confederate lines finally broke, and Robert E. Lee began his retreat to Appomattox Court House , pursued by the Union cavalry. She treasured the gift of the historical table, which is now in the Smithsonian Institution. Custer rode Don Juan in the grand review victory parade in Washington, D. The owner, Richard Gaines, wrote to General Grant, who then ordered Custer to return the horse to Gaines, but he did not, instead hiding the horse and winning a race with it the next year, before the horse died suddenly. June 24, First Lieutenant, 5th Cavalry: June 5, Brigadier General, U. May 8, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel: April 15, Mustered out of Volunteer Service: February 1, Lieutenant Colonel, 7th Cavalry: Custer arrived at Alexandria on June 27 and began assembling his units, which took more than a month to gather and remount. On July 17, he assumed command of the Cavalry Division of the Military Division of the Gulf on August 5, officially named the 2nd Division of Cavalry of the Military Division of the Gulf , and accompanied by his wife, he led the division five regiments of veteran Western Theater cavalymen to Texas on an arduous day march in August. On October 27, the division departed to Austin. During his entire period of command of the division, Custer encountered considerable friction and near mutiny from the volunteer cavalry regiments who had campaigned along the Gulf coast. They desired to be mustered out of Federal service rather than continue campaigning, resented imposition of discipline particularly from an Eastern Theater general , and considered Custer nothing more than a vain dandy. Although their occupation of Austin had apparently been pleasant, many veterans harbored deep resentments against Custer, particularly in the 2nd Wisconsin Cavalry , because of his attempts to maintain discipline. Upon its mustering out, several members planned to ambush Custer, but he was warned the night before and the attempt thwarted.

4: The real Custer : from boy general to tragic hero - Kirtland Community College

On a recent book tour to Kansas City, Missouri, Stiles talked with C&I about the complicated life of George Armstrong Custer. Was he a tragic hero who died spreading civilization, or an arrogant.

It is a classic, seriocomic scene, that is readily available on YouTube if you care to look it up. Little Big Man was a revisionist western, attempting to make up for years of stereotypical Indian portrayals by First he was a hero, then a goat, then a genocidal maniac, then a symbol of genocide. Now, the wheel has turned again, his reputation is being restored. He will never be the plaster saint he was in the late 19th Century, an image created by his adoring wife Libbie. Rather, recent historians have taken a long hard look at Custer, the forensic evidence of his last stand, and the Indian testimonials of that famous battle. If Major Reno and Captain Benteen had followed orders, there is a good chance he would have had his victory, and his legacy would be far different. This conclusion does not come from *A Terrible Glory*. Nor did I pull it entirely out of my butt brain. And this is a good thing. Even though Gray and Fox research the hell out of things, their writing is stuffy at best, and powerfully soporific at worst. James Donovan is not fancy writer, by any means, nor does he aspire to florid prose. But he does a really good job of telling a lucid story that incorporates all the recent scholarship and analysis of what is perhaps the most famous battle in American history with the exception of Gettysburg. *A Terrible Glory* gives an overview of the American Army of the West, of Custer, of the Indians situation, then spends the bulk of the book examining the final battle. Benteen comes across as the most complex character: The highlight of the book was its trove of interesting factoids. For instance, Philip Sheridan, the latter-day Curtis Lemay who said "the only good Indian is a dead Indian" actually had an Indian mistress while he lived in California. That adds an interesting shade to his psychopathic tendencies. However, some things are alluded to but never discussed. For instance, when dealing with the tragic Captain Weir, who never forgave himself for surviving while his beloved Custer died, Donovan mentions in passing that he was reputed to have had an affair with Libbie. Early commentators, of course, denigrated Curly as a silly, lying Indian. This became gospel for a time. Donovan, while noting the extensive scholarship supporting Curly, essentially calls Curly a liar and dismisses him with a couple quotes from Crow scouts saying, in effect, that Curly was a liar. The lawyer and amateur historian in me was a little put off by this. First, he mentions a really strong case supporting Point A. Next, he dismisses Point A. Point A is wrong. I mean, he quotes those Crow scouts as though they were un-impeachable; however, they had their own reasons to call Curly a liar, mainly resentment that Curly was becoming famous. There are a lot of Custer books out there in the world. Mainly, though, Custer scholarship is a fringe-field.

5: They Died with Their Boots On - Wikipedia

George Armstrong Custer was a U.S. military officer and commander who rose to fame as a young officer during the American Civil War. He gained further fame for his post-war exploits against Native.

Visit Website Despite his unimpressive record, the U. Army desperately needed officers to serve in the newly-begun Civil War. He was commissioned a second lieutenant and based in Washington , D. Custer earned a reputation for both bravery and brashness. He also became known as a publicity hound, taking every opportunity to get himself in front of the cameras and newspapermen documenting the war. In the summer of , the year-old Custer was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers, and took command of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade. Soon after, he began sporting an unusual and flamboyant uniform, which brought him even more attention. Custer played a key role at the Battle of Gettysburg , preventing General J. Stuart from attacking Union troops, and later capturing Confederates fleeing south after the Union victory. But his brigade lost more than men, the highest of any Union cavalry unit. They fell in love when Custer returned home on leave in Libbie was from a wealthy and prominent local family, but Custer was still months away from the military actions that would first bring him fame. Unlike most military wives of the time, Libbie happily accompanied Custer to his postings, and they both wrote each other constantly when separated. The couple had no children. They held regular salons in their homes, and cultivated journalists back East. After being transferred to Petersburg, he and his men took part in the Battle of Appomattox Court House that finally ended the war in the spring of April He briefly considered leaving the army to pursue business opportunities or run for political office, but when a new 7th Cavalry Regiment was raised to pursue American aims in the West, Custer assumed command as a lieutenant colonel. Custer and Libbie arrived in Kansas in the fall of , and Custer participated in a campaign against the Sioux and Cheyenne the following spring. This resentment would later have devastating consequences. Shortly afterwards, he was court-martialed for leaving his command to visit Libbie. But by the fall of , Custer was back, with Phil Sheridan having argued for his early return to fight in the Indian Wars. In , President Ulysses S. Well aware that they would be unable to make the trek during a harsh winter, the government planned to use this as an excuse to expand hostilities. But in , gold had been discovered in the region “ thanks to a mining expedition led by Custer ” and the U. Among those who resisted American aggression was Sitting Bull , a Hunkpapa Lakota chief and holy man. Due to lead the 7th Cavalry when it left on its campaign against the Sioux that spring, Custer was instead caught up in the controversies engulfing Ulysses S. His testimony at a Congressional hearing in Washington, D. Custer did himself further damage by leaking additional details to the press. A furious Grant removed Custer from command, and briefly had him arrested when he tried to return to his troops. Only after several high-ranking generals intervened was Custer allowed to return to his post. In mid-May the U. An estimated 2, were gathered in a camp along the Little Bighorn River in what is now Montana. Fearful that the Native Americans would escape, Custer chose to press on with an immediate attack. He divided his troops into three battalions, which were to attack the camp from different directions. Custer and his men headed north, into the Battle of the Little Bighorn , never to be seen alive again. The action of the other battalion commanders has been mired in controversy. Ten years later, at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Reno faltered, ordering his men to move to safety at the first sign of Indian attack. Captain Frederick Benteen, tasked with preventing the Sioux from retreating, soon met up with Reno. Custer was discovered naked, but unscalped, with a bullet to the chest and forehead. The battle itself may have lasted for up to two hours, as the Americans faced off against a well-equipped Sioux force armed with powerful and deadly repeating rifles. His death at just 36 made him a martyr, with newspaper stories, articles, books, advertisements and Hollywood movies glorifying his life and career. Chief among those burnishing his fame was Libbie Custer, who spent her widowhood writing a series of best-sellers about their life, continuing to cultivate his legacy for more than 50 years until her own death in

6: Custer and the Front Royal Executions of “ McFarland

Oct 26, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer was a West Point graduate, Civil War hero, and commander of the famous Seventh Regiment of Cavalry. He died in service to his country at the Battle of Little Big Horn valley, June 25,

Just watched a film last night with two pieces of apparently total fiction in it. Came here to have it confirmed or denied. Got an answer, sort of, but no reference to the film. Hal Jespersen talk The fact that Cheyenne oral tradition mentions a GAC-fathered child is treated with proper caution in the section above regarding marriage and family, making this paragraph redundant as well as unreliable. No academic credentials are provided. This report of the meeting is rife with grammatical errors that no scholarly report would include, and Kensey is clearly unaware of the above-mentioned fact that M was pregnant at the time of the Washita battle. K does not allude to any acknowledgment or tolerance by Libby Custer of a native child fathered by her husband. If the other source does so - it needs to be regarded with extreme caution, since none of the heavyweights involved in Custeriana - Libby herself, Utley, Graham, Michno, Edgerly, Grinnel, Wert, and others cite such a meeting as described nor attribute to Libby such an uncharacteristic and un-Victorian tolerance for adultery. While it is quite possible that GAC did father a child with M - as noted often above - in the absence of hard evidence this simply cannot be reported as fact in the article. I think it is a bit much to state "Custer and Sheridan" in that order defeated Early, as is done twice in this article. Sheridan was in command, not GAC. Custer served with Sheridan and, if you list Custer, then other divisional commanders under Sheridan also should be listed. Listing it in Recommended reading might make it more noticeable to readers. My feeling on Custer, as a person and military leader, have changed over the years. My biggest hangup is hearing people referring to him as our greatest Indian fighter, a title that I feel belongs to Ranald S. Mackenzie , who also served with Sheridan in the Valley. I have not the time to go back and find out who is responsible, but it appears to be some editor not familiar with Wiki policies on sourcing, WP: OR , or POV statements. Since none of these removed statements are objectively verifiable, may I suggest that the editor s in question consider starting a blog to support their POV and refrain from editing such statements into an encyclopedia article that strives for objectivity. Does anyone know if there is any truth to that? It was observed by burial party members but not widely reported at the time for obvious reasons. Does anyone else think that the section on his marriage should be moved or slightly re-worked? The article has a nice chronological flow, but after a brief, one sentence mention of his marriage to Elizabeth, it launches into another very brief mention of his alleged marriage to a Cheyenne woman. And then in the next section it goes back to his involvement in the Civil War. I think the article could be much improved by fixing this. On a related topic - there is a bit of a grammatical mistake in your recent edit to the text. Here is the text before the edit: His tenure at the Academy was a rocky one, and he came close to expulsion" and here is your edit: His tenure at the Academy was rocky, coming close to expulsion The problem is the classic dangling participle "coming. Even if it is intended to modify "tenure," though, the sense is wrong. The tenure is not close to expulsion - Custer is. You are quite correct. How about "During his tenure at the academy, he often came close to expulsion Do we know how tall he was? Storm norm talk However - 1 As per the long and difficult history of editing this page, the most specific and significant of these edits belong with Battle of the Little Bighorn. The amount of sourced information there is voluminous, and the biography of GAC - this article - was deemed by the consensus of many of the editors who have worked on it not to be the proper place for such specific considerations of this battle but rather as a general discussion of all of the major battles in which GAC participated. A simple overview of each battle was intended; even at that, LBH here has swelled out of proportion. We already have a couple of enthusiastic but amateur and questionable sources cited on the LBH page, and though Vern Smalley may be a WP: I am not criticizing the edits per se; nearly all of them are solid, clarifying, and factual. They simple need to be gracefully integrated into the existing LBH article with the Smalley sourcing and let the other editors determine the validity of the source. Speculation about the timing of the Last Stand segment of the battle remains problematic; some of the native sources identified the time as around 4 pm and asserted that it lasted no more the twenty minutes. Wiki policy, of course, is to present all differing side of a controversy. You

appear to be new to Wikipedia and may not be aware of the rules and protocols - if you are a veteran, then you must now about WP: These protocols require two considerations: The upshot of this is of course disagreement - controversy. Neither Smalley nor Utley nor Michno nor any single source can prove definitively what happened. In keeping with WP: I mention this to illustrate the idea that an article like this must tread a narrow middle path, one that recognizes differing and even contradictory theories without favoring one as your edit summaries imply as truth. Utley, Michno, Graham, Connell, Ambrose and others cited here are professional historians whose work has been published, widely circulated, and vetted by their peers. I can find no such trail for Smalley - and the Little Buffalo Press that published the book you cite appears possibly to be a mechanism for self-publishing. In addition, the Miszabot mysteriously retained several of the oldest and least active discussions, much out of the stated time parameter. The point of retaining some of the older discussions is to preclude the reiteration of allegations and misinformation that tends to reappear in the cases of controversial topics like this one. A former superior officer of his Samuel D. Sturgis also labelled him as "brave" but "selfish" and "tyrannical". Might I ask what it is about her work you find so "POV", and what sources meet with your approval? I ask here assuming good faith, etc. The research and references are as you note thorough and professional. But as with this quotation, the conclusions that she draws from the research are idiosyncratic and often quite political. There certainly was an element in intellectual America at the time - the Manifest Destiny crowd - that felt that way, perhaps, but they were no more reliably a barometer of U. Moreover, her treatment of the "mythic afterlife" bends and twists many of the subsequent media portrayals into something of the same, blithely ignoring the fact that the overwhelming majority of filmed portrayals of GAC present him as someone more in sympathy with the Native Americans than he perhaps - perhaps - was. Note my "I, individually" - definite POV. But please - I always assume good faith and welcome any removal of those pesky but necessary CN tags. We argue but seem to be able to reach compromises. Thanks for the kind words; I have also since added a few sentences on Libbie Custer to the article for balance. Connell, Wert, and Graham are my own favorite sources, esp. Graham - my single favorite comprehensive book on the topic. Like most of us, I respond favorably to praise. I approve of the way that this Custer article has refs which note the books and exact pages that the citation is from, and I will emulate that. Tightening these refs will be the key, of course, to a bump in grade. By the way, I have yet to master the coding needed to mention a source once in long form, then thereafter shorten it The easy way out would be to just delete it, but that would be a loss to the conclusion since the sentence is clearly to me, anyway true. I hope a consensus will agree that this merits the removal of the tag. If so, I am optimistic that further progress can rapidly be made on this important Wikipedia article, and that it can progress to a GA or even A rating with dispatch. I welcome further thoughts and commentary, and thanks for your time and consideration! The only thing I do not have, despite my intentions, is the exact page number. Anyone have a copy of the book? I suspect that all the people who have worked on this article over the years may be a bit exhausted - there has been a fair number of arguments and compromises along the way. I think that your recent edits have been outstanding and have improved the article significantly. I might, however, wait a bit before proposing GA for this. You have done some admirably sourcing here, but I believe that GA reviewer might well find this dramatically under-sourced. Additionally, some of the editing compromises have created an unwieldy attempt to balance contradictory opinions on LBH, and part of that section I have always disliked, at least in terms of wording, esp. My sense is that the article is much better but is only about halfway to GA. Custer, who has a unique take indeed, also a great sense of humor and have been fighting my own battles elsewhere against wiki-vandals across the expanses of the project, which is a surprisingly educational process. Thanks again, and I look forward to talking soon. Have finished Boots and Saddles. A real treat, as is the old old library edition I was fortunate enough to go through, possibly printed while Elizabeth Bacon Custer was still alive. Custer was funny and literate. Now I want to read her other books, including her Civil War memories of General Custer that were unpublished during her lifetime. One book leads to another and another. Interesting that Custer played such an important role in the Civil War in general and Gettysburg in particular. Am back to Mr. Wert and his fine if exacting in detail book, Gettysburg: Nothing better than seeing the actual reproductions of the art, however. I read Sandoz when that was published and concur with your assessment - as I did earlier when you mentioned Graham, whose book

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still remains indispensable. Regards, Sensei48 talk However, it appears I may now be able to return to this subject. I have studied the text repeatedly in the past months.

7: 10 Things You May Not Know About George Armstrong Custer ~ www.enganchecubano.comborn

Elizabeth Bacon Custer fought to make her husband, George Armstrong Custer, the popular hero we know today, instead of the goat that President Ulysses S. Grant tried to make him after Little Bighorn.

Plot[edit] George Armstrong Custer Flynn enters West Point and quickly establishes himself as a troublemaker by showing up in an outlandish uniform he had designed himself, which makes him appear to be a visiting foreign general. After the misunderstanding, he signs up as a cadet and begins to stack up demerits for pranks and a general disregard for rules while at the Point. When the Civil War breaks out, Custer is at the bottom of his class. As soon as his punishment ends, he runs after her, explaining his rude silence, and asking if he may come by her front porch that evening. After speaking with Libbie, Custer and other members of his class are graduated early and ordered to report to Washington, D. As a result, Custer misses his evening appointment. Once in the capital, Custer makes the acquaintance of Gen. Winfield Scott Sydney Greenstreet while dining, who then aids him in getting placed with the 2nd U. He is awarded a medal while recovering in a hospital after being shot in the shoulder; he then gets leave to return to his home in Monroe, Michigan. Custer returns to his regiment. Due to a miscommunication from the Department of War , he is promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and takes command of the Michigan Brigade at the Battle of Gettysburg. He wins the day, and many victories follow him thereafter on his path to the Confederate surrender at Appomattox , which ends the Civil War. Upon returning home to Monroe as a war hero, Custer marries Libbie in a big ceremony, which includes a regimental honor guard, but he soon grows bored with civilian life and begins drinking too much. Scott and begs him to assign Custer to a regiment again. He agrees, and Custer is given a Lt. When Custer and Libbie arrive at Fort Lincoln, Custer finds the soldiers a drunken, rowdy and undisciplined lot in need of firm leadership. Furious, Custer stops the rifle sales and permanently closes the saloon. He then instills proper military discipline in his men and introduces a regimental song, " Garryowen ", both of which quickly bring fame to the U. Sharp spreads a rumor that large gold deposits have been discovered in the Black Hills. American settlers stream into the area in violation of the treaty, but Custer and his troops permit no infractions. Custer punches both Sharp and the commissioner in anger, and he is quickly relieved of his command. Outraged, Custer takes the information to the U. Congress , but they only ridicule him. When news arrives that the presence of gold miners has led to open conflict between the Indians and U. Grant , one soldier to another, who restores him to command. Custer comes to realize that his men are marching into a valley where thousands of Indians are waiting. Knowing they will have no chance, he has a final, emotion-filled goodbye with Libbie and leads his men into battle. Earlier, Sharp has been forced by Custer to ride with the 7th "to Hell or glory. Sharp admits with his dying breath that Custer may have been right about "glory". Custer is killed by a rifle shot fired by Crazy Horse. A few corrupt politicians have goaded the western tribes into war for personal profit, threatening the survival of all white settlers in the Dakota Territories. A letter left behind by Custer, now considered his dying declaration , names the culprits and absolves the Indians of all responsibility; Custer has won his final campaign.

8: Talk:George Armstrong Custer/Archive 2 - Wikipedia

George Custer was born on December 5th, , in, Ohio. He joined the US cavalry and was to become one of the best-known men in America. He was widely seen as a national hero by some and also a national disgrace.

Four other members of the Custer family died at the Battle of Little Bighorn. The moniker stuck with him for his entire life and was used by his wife, Libbie, as a term of endearment. Custer as a West Point cadet 3. Custer graduated last in his class at West Point. Custer was known by his fellow cadets at the U. Custer was the youngest Civil War general in the Union Army. Although Custer struggled in the classroom, he excelled on the battlefield. By the end of the Civil War, Custer had risen to the rank of major general. His wife received the table on which the Civil War surrender terms were drafted. George and Libbie Custer 6. Custer scented his hair with cinnamon oil. The flamboyant Custer paid great attention to his appearance. He wore a black velvet uniform with coils of gold lace, spurs on his boots, a red scarf around his neck and a large, broad-brimmed sombrero. Custer took particular pride in his cascading golden locks, which he perfumed with cinnamon oil. Custer was twice court-martialed. Prior to graduating from West Point, Custer was court-martialed for neglect of duty in failing to stop a fight between two cadets when he was officer of the guard and received a light punishment. Much more serious was his court-martial in which he was convicted on eight counts that included conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and absence without leave from his command after he left part of his regiment on the Kansas frontier while he returned without orders to Fort Riley in order to see Libbie. Custer was suspended from rank and command without pay for a year, but Sheridan reinstated him after 10 months to lead a bloody campaign against the Cheyenne. Battle of the Little Bighorn 9. Custer was thought to have lived a charmed life. Ronald Reagan played Custer on the big screen. Reagan starred opposite Errol Flynn, who played J.

9: George Armstrong Custer - HISTORY

Custer was known by his fellow cadets at the U.S. Military Academy as the "dare-devil of the class" who devoted more energy to pranks than to his academic studies. now known as "the goat."

Two other captains— Wesley Merritt and Elon J. Farnsworth —were promoted along with Custer, although they did have command experience. Custer lost no time in implanting his aggressive character on his brigade, part of the division of Brig. He fought against the Confederate cavalry of Maj. Stuart at Hanover and Hunterstown , on the way to the main event at Gettysburg. Custer established a reputation as an aggressive cavalry brigade commander willing to take personal risks by leading his Michigan Brigade into battle, such as the mounted charges at Hunterstown and East Cavalry Field at the Battle of Gettysburg. At Hunterstown, in an ill-considered charge ordered by Kilpatrick against the brigade of Wade Hampton , Custer fell from his wounded horse directly before the enemy and became the target of numerous enemy rifles. Custer encountered the Union cavalry division of Brig. He convinced Gregg to allow him to stay and fight, while his own division was stationed to the south out of the action. At East Cavalry Field , hours of charges and hand-to-hand combat ensued. Custer led a mounted charge of the 1st Michigan Cavalry, breaking the back of the Confederate assault. He had been socially introduced to her in November , when home in Monroe on leave. She was not initially impressed with him, [14] and her father, Judge Daniel Bacon, disapproved of Custer as a match because he was the son of a blacksmith. It was not until well after Custer had been promoted to the rank of brevet brigadier general that he gained the approval of Judge Bacon. He married Elizabeth Bacon fourteen months after they formally met. Little Rock was killed in the Washita battle. Cheyenne oral history tells that she also bore a second child, fathered by Custer in late . Some historians, however, believe that Custer had become sterile after contracting gonorrhea while at West Point and that the father was in actuality his brother Thomas. Custer, now commanding the 3rd Division, followed Sheridan to the Shenandoah Valley where they defeated the Confederate army of Lt. Early in the Valley Campaigns of . When the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac was reorganized under Maj. Philip Sheridan in , Custer took part in the various actions of the cavalry in the Overland Campaign , including the Battle of the Wilderness after which he ascended to division command , the Battle of Yellow Tavern , where Jeb Stuart was mortally wounded, and the Battle of Trevilian Station , where Custer was humiliated by having his division trains overrun and his personal baggage captured by the enemy. Early moved down the Shenandoah Valley and threatened Washington, D. Sheridan and Custer, having defeated Early, returned to the main Union Army lines at the Siege of Petersburg , where they spent the winter. In April the Confederate lines were finally broken and Robert E. Lee began his retreat to Appomattox Court House , pursued by the Union cavalry. She treasured the gift, which is now in the Smithsonian Institution. Custer arrived at Alexandria on June 27 and began assembling his units, which took more than a month to gather and remount. Accompanied by his wife, he led the division five regiments of veteran Western Theater cavalrymen to Texas on an arduous day march in August. During his entire period of command of the division, Custer encountered considerable friction and near mutiny from the volunteer cavalry regiments who had campaigned along the Gulf coast. They desired to be mustered out of Federal service rather than continue campaigning, resented imposition of discipline particularly from an Eastern Theater general , and considered Custer nothing more than a vain dandy. Although their occupation of Austin had apparently been pleasant, many veterans harbored deep resentments against Custer, particularly in the 2nd Wisconsin Cavalry , because of his attempts to maintain discipline. Upon its mustering out, several members planned to ambush Custer, but he was warned the night before and the attempt thwarted. Custer took an extended leave, exploring options in New York City , [22] where he considered careers in railroads and mining. Army, which was endorsed by Grant and Secretary of War Stanton. Custer disapproved, however, and when his request for leave was opposed by U. Secretary of State William H. Seward , who was against having an American officer commanding foreign troops, Custer refused the alternative of resignation from the Army to take the lucrative post. He took part in public discussion over the treatment of the American South in the aftermath of the Civil War, advocating a policy of moderation. Also formed in , it was led by Republican activist John Alexander

Logan. Custer and his wife Libbie stayed with the president during most of the trip. At one point Custer confronted a small group of Ohio men who repeatedly jeered Johnson, saying, "I was born two miles and a half from here, but I am ashamed of you. On June 26, Lt. Kidder was to deliver dispatches to Custer from Gen. He was suspended from duty for one year. At the request of Maj. Philip Sheridan , who wanted Custer for his planned winter campaign against the Cheyenne, Custer was allowed to return to duty in , before his term of suspension had expired. Custer led the 7th U. Custer reported killing warriors; estimates by the Cheyenne of their casualties were substantially lower 11 warriors plus 19 women and children [28] ; some women and children were also killed, and US troops took 53 women and children prisoner. Custer had his men shoot most of the Indian ponies they had captured. The Battle of Washita River was regarded as the first substantial U. Cavalry clashed for the first time with the Lakota. Only one man on each side was killed. Among the towns that immediately grew up was Deadwood, South Dakota , notorious for lawlessness. Grant, Belknap and Politics File: Secretary of War William W. After Belknap was indicted, Custer secured release and left Washington on April Instead of immediately returning to Fort Lincoln, he visited the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and traveled to New York to meet with his publishers. While there, he was summoned to the U. Senate, possibly a move instigated by President Grant. Returning to Washington on April 21, Custer found he was the center of a campaign of vilification in the Republican media. He was accused of perjury and disparagement of brother officers. President Grant prohibited sending the letter and ordered Taft to appoint another officer to take command. Alfred Terry determined there were no available officers of rank to take command, Sherman ordered him to make an appointment. Stunned that he would not be in command, Custer approached the impeachment managers and secured his release. General Sherman advised Custer not to leave Washington before meeting personally with President Grant. Custer arranged for Colonel Rufus Ingalls to request a meeting, which Grant refused. On the evening of May 3, Custer took a train to Chicago. The following morning General Sherman sent a telegram to General Sheridan ordering him to intercept Custer and hold him until further orders. Sherman, Sheridan, and Terry all wanted Custer in command but had to support Grant. He later recalled, " Custer with tears in his eyes, begged for my aid. How could I resist it? Grant was already under pressure for his treatment of Custer and his administration worried about failure of the "Sioux campaign" without him. Grant would be blamed if perceived as ignoring the recommendations of senior Army officers. Critics have used this statement to conclude that Custer was to blame for the resulting disaster by seeking to claim independent victory. Americans continually broke treaty agreements and advanced further westward, resulting in violence and acts of depredation by both sides. To take possession of the Black Hills and thus the gold deposits , and to stop Indian attacks, the U. The Grant government set a deadline of January 31, for all Lakota and Arapaho wintering in the "unceded territory" to report to their designated agencies reservations or be considered "hostile". Meanwhile, in the spring and summer of , the Hunkpapa Lakota holy man Sitting Bull had called together the largest ever gathering of plains Indians at Ash Creek, Montana later moved to the Little Bighorn River to discuss what to do about the whites. Custer divided his forces into three battalions: McDougall and Company B were with the pack train. Benteen was sent south and west, to cut off any attempted escape by the Indians, Reno was sent north to charge the southern end of the encampment, and Custer rode north, hidden to the east of the encampment by bluffs, and planning to circle around and attack from the north. Eventually, however, this position became untenable and the troopers were forced into a bloody retreat up onto the bluffs above the river, where they made their own stand. From that point the soldiers were pursued by hundreds of warriors onto a ridge north of the encampment. Custer and his command were prevented from digging in by Crazy Horse, however, whose warriors had outflanked him and were now to his north, at the crest of the ridge. Yet this arrangement robbed Custer of a quarter of his firepower. Many of the panicking soldiers threw down their weapons [42] and either rode or ran towards the knoll where Custer, the other officers, and about 40 men were making a stand. Along the way, the Indians rode them down, counting coup by whacking the fleeing troopers with their quirts or lances. The Indians may have fielded over warriors. The "€" figure is substantially lower than the higher numbers of or more postulated by Ambrose, Gray, Scott, and others. Some of the other participants in the battle gave these estimates: Spotted Horn Bull - 5, braves and chiefs Maj. Reno - 2, to 5, warriors Capt. Moylan - 3, to 4, Lt. Hare - not under 4, Lt. Godfrey -

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minimum between 2, and 3, Lt. Edgerly - 4, Lt. Varnum - not less than 4, Sgt. Kanipe - fully 4, Fred Gerard - 2, to 3, An average of the above is 3, warriors and chiefs.

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