

Incidently, Custer committed suicide, as doubtlessly did some of the other whites, when they saw it was hopeless, to save themselves from capture, and probably torture. They did right. And, foolish poetry and invented romance to the contrary, Custer was far from the last man to fall. I think it was bad cartridges that wiped them out. I had some of the same cartridges, and tried them myself in the same kind of a rifle, and the empty shells stuck fast, just as the Indians told about it all.

Incidently, all of which concerns Sitting Bull, as he and the Bighorn are somewhat One, the basic cause of that whole affair, as of so many other Indian troubles, was whiskey. Custer was drunk, so was Reno-- the Reno did exactly right in doing what he did. He could do nothing else. As he said "If they wiped out Custer's 260, what would they have done to my 95?" But the real hero of that whole affair, who as in so much history gets but little if any credit, was Senteen. He was sober and the best officer in the regiment. My father, by the way, knew all three of them. My family, a branch, came to Denver in 1859, and have been on the Indian frontier for about 300 years--Conn--enn--Ohio--Iowa--~~Missouri~~ Missouri--Kansas--Colorado--then there was no more frontier. Several of my direct ancestor's scalps have dried in the Indian wardances. My uncle, Jack Sumner, one of Powell's men on the first trip thro the Grand Canon, was one of the only two men I have ever known who bore Indian arrow wounds. I knew several, of course, with bullet holes. But only two with arrow scars. Carney, M. Troop. 2nd Cavalry (Captain Mix) late 60's on the Plains, was also a close friend of mine. We wrote some Injun yarns together. See Colliers about 1900 or 1901 in the Fall. All true, no fiction.

As for Cody-- I knew him casually for a number of years, like several million others no doubt, but toward the last I became very close to the whole family, ate with the, the father, asked to their houses, etc. Knew his sisters, wife, daughter, and other relatives. They selected me to