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Journal of Comment

The Mobridge Tribune says that the grave of Sitting Bull on a gentle sloping hillside at Fort Yates was unmarked until recently. This is an error. In 1915 the Commercial Club of Fort Yates had a marker placed on the grave and the plot of the eternal resting place of the chieftain enclosed with a steel fence. Mr. Louis Endres of Fort Yates, J. L. Haas now of St. Paul, and the writer were the pioneers in the effort to preserve the location of the grave. Realizing that in time the name of Sitting Bull would go down in history with other great warriors who fought for liberty and the preservation of a noble race. The reason that the grave of Sitting Bull was so long unmarked was the opposition of the late Major McLaughlin to all attempts to have this done. When the present editor of the Messenger established the Sioux County Pioneer at Fort Yates he began an agitation to have the grave of Sitting Bull marked. In time this spot will be as big a shrine for the American citizens as the tombs and graves of other noted men. Perhaps more so. —McLaughlin Messenger.

Sitting Bull's grave had markers even before 1915 but they were plain, wooden boards bearing the inscription painted in black letters, "Sitting Bull, Died Dec. 15, 1890." Due to souvenir hunters cutting pieces away from the head board it had to be renewed often. The writer recalls that when Shier, printer on the old Winona Times, had his picture taken standing with one hand on the head board of Sitting Bull's grave, the pickets in the fence behind him could be seen through his body. This was a freak due to refracted light rays that gave a ghostly setting in a striking manner. We still have this picture.

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