

LELAND CASE, the first speaker, outlined the plan of the campaign which led to the Custer disaster — the three columns of Crook, Terry and Gibbon converging on the place where the hostiles were supposed to be. He traced the march of these columns on a map which had been posted on the wall and, as a further aid to his listeners, distributed photostatic copies of a map of the Little Big Horn battlefield which had been prepared for the occasion by MANNEL HAHN. (The copies were made from the map which appears in P. W. Norris's book "The Calumet of the Coteau", and which bears the legend "Sketched July 5, 1877 by P. W. Norris. Corrected from that of Lieut. E. Maguire, U.S.A. 1879".)

The next speaker was JOHN H. JAMESON, who has a ranch not far from the Custer battlefield, has been over it many times and also has retraced the routes of Custer, Gibbon and Terry. He displayed photographs which he had taken of the terrain over which they marched and fought.

Jameson's talk was concerned mainly with the much-debated question of whether or not Custer disobeyed Terry's written orders given to the leader of the Seventh on the morning of June 22. He analyzed these orders and quoted from "The Story of the Little Big Horn" by Lieut. Col. W. A. Graham and the booklet containing "Custer's Last Battle" by Brig. Gen. Charles Francis Roe and "March of the 'Montana Column'" by Lieut. Edward J. McClernand, to support his argument that "Custer did not disobey his orders" i.e. that Terry's instructions gave Custer sufficient freedom of action to justify his subsequent movements.

DON RUSSELL, a former cavalryman, student of and writer on Indian warfare, was then called upon to discuss this and other controversial issues of the battle. The gist of his remarks follow:

A study of Custer's character seems essential to an understanding of his actions. Unfortunately, we get little help from his biographers. On the one hand we have Frederick Wittaker's panegyric in which he refers to a minor drinking episode in Monroe, Mich., in these terms, "Briefly, this period was the one little spot in Custer's career, the one fault in a perfect life." On the other hand we have Frederick F. Van de Water so interested in making good his book-title of "Glory-hunter" as to print this sentence:

"The troops killed many rabbits and some buffalo, and Custer was delighted with the prowess of his staghounds who tore at a snow-bogged calf until, 'watching a favorable opportunity, I succeeded in cutting the hamstrings.'"