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WAUKUTEMONIE'S STORY OF CUSTER'S LAST STAND

Waukute monie was about the age of 16 at the time of the battle.

Long Elk, Pretty Bear and Elk Heart were the first three that were wounded and then the Indians began to fight.

I was but a young boy and wanted to go with the men to fight and my mother and sister came and put their arms about me and begged me not to go for fear I would be killed. After I got on my horse they held me back so that when the first battle occurred I did not get thru. Just before that there had been some of the Crows fighting and Custer had fought with them and two or three men were killed. That was the reason my mother and sister did not want me to go. I finally broke away and came down there but did not go where Reno was. The younger fellows were wild about the fighting and all went over the bluff but it was only a few moments until everybody came. We did not have much time for preparation or anything else and struck with the butts of our whips.

Did Custer's men send their horses back and fight without them?

A great many left their horses behind and some fought from them.

Did the smoke and dust get so thick that one could not see?

Most of the soldiers acted as tho they were drunk. Many of them threw their guns down and at no time was there much shooting so that one could not see.

How long was it from the time that Custer came thru the hill till all were wiped out?

It was a very little while for when they began to kill they dropped as fast as they could.

Could Reno have gotten thru to help Custer?

Reno could not have reached Custer at all; the intrenchments were too far away.

The young Indian boys all wanted to go on and fight the rest of the way but the older Indians would not let them; they told us that if this many white soldiers had come that without doubt there were many more on farther and it would be too dangerous with no prospect of winning. Scouts advised the Indians after looking thru their glasses that they had better let Reno go and take care of themselves.

After this battle our family went with other families to the White Mountains. (Rocky Mountains.) and then turned and came back to the Rosebud again and then to the Little Missouri, thence to the Thick Woods river also. When they got to the Thick woods river twenty families came back and two went on to Canada. Our family was with those who came back.

Waukute monie's conversation confirms map made by Gaul page 433 of History of the Sioux Indians except that Gaul put the Huncpapas out of their regular position. They had a more prominent place than that given to them in his map.

Waukute monie said further, "I killed two men who had guns in their hands and I killed them with my revolver. They did not seem to know enough to shoot. They had rifles and were near me too."

"They did not fire their guns together and they fought without system whatever."

The Indians had gone out after their horses when one rode up and said, "Brothers, there is something going on at that tent." They had two horses and his mother and father got on one and he took his sister on behind him. There were already to run, thinking the soldiers were coming. The firing began before they had a chance to get away and then the fight began.

Waukute monie says concerning the fourth of July. "I don't think they should allow the Indians to have the celebration for the Fourth of July. That they do for they sing songs of that battle and get all excited about the people who were killed in it. The older men especially feel it strongly