

STATEMENT OF STANDS-WITH-HORNS-IN-SIGHT, OR WEARS HORN - HUNKPAPA SIOUX

I was born near the mouth of Powder River in Montana Territory 92 winters ago; according to the pictograph calendar of the Sioux, the month was when the choke-cherries were ripe (August). I belong to the Teton Division of the Hunkpapa Sioux; Chiefs Four Horns and Sitting Bull were the Headmen. There were many great men of the race; Gall, Rain-in-the-face, Running Antelope, Thunderhawk, Fireheart (Blackfeet Sioux), Uses-as-a-shield, Grass, Flying By, and several others. After Long Hair (Custer) and all his soldiers were killed on Greasy-grass (Little Bighorn) river (June 25, 1876), I went to Canada with Sitting Bull and his warriors and their families. In 1881 Sitting Bull surrendered to the military authorities at Fort Buford and were brought down the Missouri river to Fort Randall, S. Dakota, where they were held as prisoners of war; I did not accompany Sitting Bull, but remained north of the medicine-road (Canadian Boundary Line) until about 1906 when I came to the Standing Rock Indian reservation where I remained ever since. As a boy I saw the Battle of Greasy-grass (Little Bighorn river) when Long Hair and all his long-knives were wiped out. I saw many battles between the Long Knives (Cavalry) and the Indians. Two years before Long Hair was killed we were camped in the valley of the Rosebud river, in southeastern Montana. (Onjin-jin-tka-wapa) Rosebud river. Some time during the spring of that year (1874) a lot of Whitemen with wagons, horses, mules and dogs, came up the Rosebud river and we heard afterwards that these (Wasicu) whitemen were looking for yellow-metal (gold). Two divisions of the Teton were camped there; they were the Owohe-numpa (two Kettle) band under their chief High-back-bone or Hump (I meant to say Chief Red End of Horn)-(He-inkpa-luta) and the Minne-con-oju band, under their chief High-back-bone or Hump. It was the warriors from these bands who fought the gold-hunters. Their wagons loaded with food and equipment were formed in a large circle with all the stock inside. The whitemen dug long cellars or trenches holding about 6 to 8 men and they were deep. We called them by the Sioux name, Maka-ti-oti (dug-out dwellers). From these dug-outs they shot at the warriors as they rode close to these mounds. The whitemen were excellent shots. Some of the warriors rode very close and it was then that dogs would come out between the wagon wheels and take after them. The warriors shot several of them with arrows. When the firing got too heavy the warriors retreated behind hills and small knolls and from behind these hills the warriors would hold up their coup-sticks as targets and the bullets would hit the scalps. Wan-tan-yeya-pelo (straight-shooters). One warrior tied a red eagle feather to a long stick and held that up as a target and the bullets would hit the feather. The fight took place not too far from the Sioux camp because some women and young boys went on top of the hill and looked on. We could hear the cracking of guns. The warriors knew that they were not fighting soldiers, because soldiers were poor shots. In the Custer fight some soldiers shot in the air (I don't know why) perhaps they were excited; they were poor marksmen. At that time (1874) the warriors did not have very good guns; most of them had bows and arrows, lances and war-clubs. I never heard how many whitemen (gold-stealers) were killed but I do know that several warriors were killed and wounded. Bows and arrows against rifles is sica (no good). Ho-he-cetu! It is well!

Judge's impression of informant

Honest, reliable and good memory. Height 5'7", dignified-Hair slightly gray - parted in middle and braided. Bass voice. Sundance scars on chest and back, 2 arrow wounds in back. Excellent type of Plains Indian.

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Statement secured by Judge Frank B. Zahn, Fort Yates, North Dakota, in October, 1956. This copy made from Judge Zahn's original typed copy by James S. Hutchins, October 26, 1956.